

*Hafa Adai!*

Two men aboard Toyota Sienna rob 2 tourists.

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# Saipan Tribune

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## Torres: Inos still working despite CHC confinement

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**G**ov. Eloy S. Inos is currently confined at the hospital due to an undisclosed illness, but Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres assured that the CNMI's chief executive has been handling the day-to-day operations of the government despite his condition.

"I have actually been in frequent communication with the governor. While he has been recuperating in the hospital, we have had several productive conversations regarding key Cabinet positions, the eventual lifting of

See **TORRES** on Page 4

## Star Poker robbery suspect falls

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Police identified and subsequently arrested the wig-wearing suspect who robbed the Star Poker arcade along Beach Road near Quartermaster Road on Tuesday night.

Department of Public Safety police  
See **SUSPECT** on Page 4



Narruhn

## Frances Taimanao is MCS 2015 Teacher of the Year

By THOMAS MANGLONA II  
CORRESPONDENT

As a part of its celebration of Catholic Schools Week, Mount Carmel School named Frances Taimanao as its Teacher of the Year on Tuesday.

Taimanao, who has been teaching at the private school for over eight years, received a \$2,000 reward and is now designated to represent the

» **Students conduct community service projects, celebrate Catholic Schools Week**

school's faculty and staff at leadership meetings and on the MCS' board.

"My favorite part of being a teacher is making a difference in the lives of children and seeing them succeed," she

told *Saipan Tribune*. "I am humbled and honored."

Taimanao, who has been in education for nearly three decades, was also Mount Carmel School's Teacher of the Year in 2011.

One of her sixth grade students described her as passionate and determined. "What makes her the best teacher is how determined she is to

See **FRANCES** on Page 4

Mount Carmel School Teacher of the Year Frances Taimanao, fourth from left, poses for a photo with, from left, vice principal for curriculum and instruction Bobby Nelson Baldazo, counselor Toby Smith, business manager Keiko Yamagata, vice principal for student affairs Ida Bahillo, director of Institutional Development John Blanco, and school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

THOMAS MANGLONA II

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The Blizzard of 2015 slams New England, piling up more than 2 feet of snow.

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Gunmen storm a luxury hotel in Libya's capital, killing 10 people.

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## Local

# Two men aboard Toyota Sienna rob 2 tourists

Two unidentified men robbed two female tourists who were walking in front of Gold Beach Hotel along Beach Road in Garapan Tuesday night.

Department of Public Safety police spokesman Travis Hurst

said the suspects managed to get the victims' handbags.

Hurst said he has no information yet on the contents of the handbags.

He said the suspects fled aboard a gray newer model

Toyota Sienna.

Hurst identified the victims as Jang Han and Wei Wang, both Chinese tourists.

Police investigation showed that DPS Central Dispatch received a call of a robbery near

Gold Beach Hotel on Tuesday at 9:50pm.

According to the victims' account, they were walking along the road when two men got out of a gray Toyota Sienna, approached them, and grabbed

their handbags.

The suspects fled back to the Toyota Sienna and took off, heading east on Gualo Rai Road toward Chalan Pale Arnold Road (Middle Road).

Hurst said DPS is seeking

the public's assistance in apprehending the robbers.

"Anyone with information is asked to call DPS or the Crime Stoppers hotline at 670-664-9001 or 670-234-7272," Hurst said. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

## CHC laboratory now recertified

By JAYSON CAMACHO

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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Laboratory Services Department is finally certified up to the year 2017.

According to CEO Esther Muña, the Centers for Medi-

care and Medicaid Services and Clinical Laboratory Improvement amendments certification has finally been approved.

Muña said this is great for the corporation because its certification was close to termination in 2012.

"The new recertification was

a result of major improvements throughout the laboratory and ensuring supplies were available so that the medical providers are able to diagnose the patients promptly and save lives," Muña said.

According to her, the laboratory certification opens opportunities for CHCC to move

toward improving and expanding services.

A GeneXpert laboratory equipment was purchased using federal funds to increase the capability of the CHC lab to do rapid testing in-house for early diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis while reestablishing

testing for sexually transmitted diseases such as gonorrhea and Chlamydia on-site.

Muña noted that routine microbiology tests were also added to the chargemaster, the listing of their services and charges.

"This minimizes our cost sending lab specimen off-site for testing and helps us generate more revenues. The Resource Patient Management System computer program under the

electronic health records or EHR was also implemented in the laboratory, allowing medical providers and nurses to view lab results in real time and improving overall health care for our patients," she said.

As of now, the laboratory is being run by a laboratory director/pathologist, ensuring that it continues to meet all CLIA conditions and maintain its certification.

### TRANSITION REPORT SAYS:

## CUC wants govt to retire \$28M arrears

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The transition report made public by the Committee of Transition on Tuesday included a number of recommendations from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., foremost of which is for the government to pay its utility bills in full each month and to create a payment plan for retiring the CNMI government's \$28 million arrears.

"CUC continues to operate, but is in a fragile financial position. Government arrears create pressure on operational funding and continue a practice of short-term crisis management to the detriment of consumers and CUC's ability to meet stipulated orders

requirements," the report reads.

The utilities company also recommended that the Legislature resist ratemaking and the temptation to intervene in utility operations by bypassing the CUC board and the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission regarding rates, fees, charges, and policies.

CUC pointed out that in fiscal year 2014, legislative actions reduced CUC's revenues by \$10.7 million—about 25 percent of its operating budget.

These laws include Public Law 18-19 (\$1.7 million), which lowered the Public School System's rates; PL 18-66 (\$4 million), which lowered the utility payments of the central government; and House

Bill 18-216 HSI (\$5 million), which seeks to reduce PSS and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. receivables. The latter is pending the governor's approval.

It also wants the government to require all existing self-generating businesses and new commercial development to connect to the CUC system.

"Do not allow self-generation except for emergency back-up generation. This will lower the price for everyone," said CUC.

The Committee on Transition and the Transition subcommittee, which reviewed CUC, however, does not agree with this recommendation in light of CUC's current unstable financial situation.

"The presence of Best Sun-

shine integrated resort development alone will deplete the current power reserves available from CUC," the transition committee countered.

CUC said the Water Task Force is no longer needed as it duplicates its work and competes for limited grant funding.

"The WTF was created as a temporary entity over 10 years ago to manage grant monies and those services are no longer required. Please note CUC pays for WTF's employees, yet they have no management oversight or board of director's control over their activities."

CUC also is calling for the government to allocate public lands for new power resource supplies.

"The issues of siting a new power plant, of any technology, are a major impediment in developing new resources. CUC respectfully asks for support in siting new facilities on public lands to ensure cost effective development."

The Transition Committee recommended that any additional public land grant to CUC should be appraised and the value to be offset from the government's utility expenses.

The utilities company also recommended that the government appropriate more funds to cover current utility expenses and those in arrears for each government agency.

It said CHCC, PSS and the central government represent the largest accounts receivable accounts for CUC.

Upon completion of all stipulated order requirements, CUC

said the agency and the CNMI government should conduct a feasibility study/business model to separate power and water/wastewater divisions.

"Power services have always been subsidizing water and wastewater services in the CNMI. Separating these utilities will allow management to focus on a particular area and the true costs of operation will be determined. In most U.S. jurisdictions, power and water/wastewater are separate entities," it said.

The Committee on Transition headed by chair Gregorio M. Camacho and vice chair James Ada. It also has nine-member panel made up of Rufin S. Inos, Edward C. Deleon Guerrero, Esther S. Fleming, Mathilda A. Rosario, Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), and Torres' brothers Vince, Victorino, and Joaquin.

## Emon Lodge donates \$1,000 to Karidat

Emon Lodge No. 179 donated \$1,000 to Karidat Social Services, from funds raised during its recent Grand Master Golf Classic held on Jan 17.

Emon Lodge Masons, chaplains, and outgoing worshipful master Daniel Banez presented the \$1,000 check to Karidat executive director Angie Guerrero and staff, who expressed their sincere thanks to the visiting Emon Lodge members at the Karidat Office yesterday afternoon.

Fil Taga Golf association president William Retardo, who helped organize the golf tournament, was also present.

Retardo said they hope to have another fundraising golf tournament this year.

Banez said they give back to the community because their organization is part of the island. He said they have donated to Karidat three times in the past.

"We know Karidat has been helping people in need. That's why we picked this organization to give our donation. Karidat is very important for everybody, not only for individuals of certain races but for everyone," Banez said. **(Dennis B. Chan)**



Members of the Emon Lodge No. 179 and Fil Taga Golf Association present a check for \$1,000 to Karidat Social Services yesterday afternoon.

DENNIS B. CHAN



# CNMI should have say on voting rights issue—Demapan

By JOEL D. PINAROC  
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REPORTER

Although the CNMI is not party to an impending lawsuit seeking for voting rights for citizens of U.S. territories, CNMI residents should have their say on the issue and present this to the U.S. government, according to Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan).

Demapan, who chairs the Federal and Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, also said "it is premature, at this point, to

comment on the issue since none has been filed in the courts yet."

The lawmaker was asked to comment on a move by civil rights group "We the People Project," which is reportedly preparing the lawsuit against the federal government.

A *Pacific Daily News* report quoted the group as saying it "is developing its case and could file the lawsuit within the next few months."

Demapan said he is "aware that this has been a longstanding issue for many people in the

Commonwealth and throughout the other territories."

"For the CNMI in particular, the inability to cast a vote for President of the United States begs the question of just how much of a political union we have with the United States as intended by our Covenant," he said.

The lawmaker further said while the CNMI is not a party to this planned lawsuit, "I believe we should seek the input of our people and present our position to the U.S. government."

We the People Project, which is led by former Guam resident Neil Weare, is dedicated to achieving equal rights and representation for the 4.7 million Americans who live in

U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Weare last visited Saipan in May 2013 to familiarize the CNMI about the project. In his presentation at the Northern Marianas College, he talked about the need for a new civil rights movement centered on achieving equal rights for the residents of U.S. territories and D.C.

Weare, a civil rights attorney, is a graduate of Southern High in Guam and Yale Law School. He also represented Guam in the 2004 Athens Olympics. As president and founder of We the People Project, a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C.,

he is lead counsel in *Tuaua v. United States*, a groundbreaking case arguing that Congress cannot deny Americans in the territories the right to constitutional citizenship.

Weare is also promoting We the People Projects Equal Rights Pledge, where residents of the NMI can show their support for equal rights and representation. The pledge can be signed online at [http://www.equalrightsnow.org/equal\\_rights\\_pledge](http://www.equalrightsnow.org/equal_rights_pledge).

People interested in sup-

porting We the People Project with a financial contribution may make a secure online donation at [https://wethepeopleproject.nationbuilder.com/make\\_a\\_donation](https://wethepeopleproject.nationbuilder.com/make_a_donation).

## Power generation anticipates over \$5M savings in 10 yrs.

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Thanks to more efficient engines and operations, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has accumulated \$2.4 million in savings for fuel oil and expects 10-year savings of over \$3.1 million, according to Power Generation Division manager Richard Cano.

Cano, who updated the CUC board yesterday about ongoing fixes for the power plant engines on Rota and Saipan, noted that fuel use has decreased, causing more fuel efficiency for CUC.

Cano disclosed that fuel saved in gallons total 759,808, resulting in a kilowatt-hour saving of 550,938. This cause CUC to save a total of \$2.4 million, based on a \$3.2401 per gallon of fuel.

From September 2013 up to now, CUC has been able to maintain the fuel oil efficiency of gallons per kWh at a rate of 15.14, which CUC is pleased with, but the goal is to use 16 gallons per kWh based

on maintaining CUC's load at 75 percent.

Cano also noted a 10-year anticipated savings of over \$3.1 million based on the schedule of water charges and rates effective March 5, 2013.

CUC board chair David Sablan Jr. said that if CUC could save that much money, it will get passed on to the consumers.

For fiscal year 2015, CUC has accounted for so much requirements for operations and funding requirements for supplies, that eventually the savings won't show up until later in the year, to see if CUC needs anymore money or not.

"Maybe we might realize the savings in 2016 when we go back for rate relief and there is so much that we need to address as well in terms of needs that we have not been able to fund, so maybe some of the savings will be allocated to those requirements and so it is very probable will try to use that money to try to further upgrade the facilities," Sablan said.

## Bill pushed to 'reform' CUC board

By JOEL D. PINAROC  
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REPORTER

A bill has been proposed seeking to "reform" the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors.

Senate Bill 19-07, titled "Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Directors Reform Act of 2015," is being introduced by Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan).

The bill states that "CUC must continue to operate as well as seek financing to successfully complete required projects to achieve environmental compliance and develop the utility."

It further stated that the CUC "must have acceptable corporate governance in place," in order to qualify for a grant or loan, particularly from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The bill adds that the executive director "has been acting under the governor's direction

to continue the operations of CUC without a board in place."

One major change detailed in the bill is to "restructure the board of CUC so that it can act as a governing board," that is a board that "determines policy and regulation, allocates resources, hires the executive director, oversees management and organizational performance, protects consumers and public interests, and makes major decisions."

The bill also suggests a clear "delineation" of the roles of the board and management, where management runs the daily operations while the board makes and reviews "larger financial decisions and policy matters."

There is also a need to hire an expert in the fields of energy and utility, the bill suggests.

Igisomar presented SB 19-07 at the recent session of the Senate of the 19th Northern Marianas Legislature.

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# Cape Air cancelled yesterday and Tuesday

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
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REPORTER

Cape Air/United is down.

Scheduled flights were cancelled yesterday and the day before.

According to flightstats.com, three flights were cancelled yesterday.

To accommodate passengers, United flew one plane between the Guam and the CNMI for both days, it was learned.

Swaths of cancelled flights marked the middle months of last year, frustrating the traveling public and business people alike.

Yesterday, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

officials scheduled to conduct a public hearing early last night could not make it to the hearing or information meeting scheduled weeks before.

Whether cancellations continue today—and similar stories of delayed plans and schedules abound—could not be confirmed as of press time.

## McCaroll: Bacterial contamination in NMI drinking water has declined

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Bacterial contamination in the CNMI's drinking water has decreased over the course of 12 years, according to John McCarroll, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 manager for Pacific Islands Office.

McCarroll, who visited the Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly luncheon last Tuesday, said when he first came to Saipan about 13 years ago, people got

water for just one to two hours a day. The water that was tested back then had bacterial contamination, McCarroll said.

Now, 90 percent of Saipan has water and bacterial contamination "went from common to almost rarity in drinking water," he said.

McCarroll lauded the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for improving its water infrastructure over the years.

In 2013, the water CUC served its consumers met all EPA prima-

ry standards, he said.

The primary source of water for the island of Saipan comes from 135 groundwater wells, one spring, and two Maui-type wells. One Maui-type well supplies all of the CUC Tinian water system.

On Rota, the water primarily comes from two surface water sources that are occasionally supplemented with groundwater from three deep groundwater wells. To control bacterial contamination in the

water, CUC water operators add trace amounts of chlorine to the water before it is distributed into the pipelines to its customers.

"So things are better and yet it is still salty that you can't drink it through the faucet. So it is a challenge, unlike other places where you turn on the faucet and you don't think about and just drink it. There is still ways to go but there has been big improvements from the last 10 to 12 years," McCarroll said.

## Man gets 3-day prison term for disturbing the peace

A 34-year-old man has pleaded guilty to the charge of disturbing the peace for shouting and threatening a staff of an apartment in Fina Sisu.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo on Tuesday sentenced Medson Ladore to six months in prison, all suspended except

for three days.

Ladore was given credit for three days of time served. This means he will no longer serve more prison time.

Ladore was placed on supervised probation for one year and required to undergo anger management counseling with the Community Guidance Center

and complete any recommended treatment.

He was ordered to perform 50 hours of community service and pay a \$125 in probation and court fees.

As part of the plea deal, the remaining charge of assault was dropped.

According to the factual ba-

sis of the plea agreement, Ladore challenged a male staff at the Finasisu Terraces to a fight, acted upset and shouted at him while at the victim's office on Nov. 10, 2014. This caused the victim to be afraid and the police to be called. Police arrested Ladore that afternoon. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## SUSPECT

From Page 1

lice spokesman Travis Hurst said police detectives interviewed and arrested 28-year-old Eric Narruhn yesterday at 12:22pm.

Hurst said part of the stolen \$541 cash was recovered.

"At this time it is not known if all of the money taken from Star Poker has been recovered," Hurst said.

He said DPS Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation detectives were able to identify the suspect.

DPS Central Dispatch received a call Tuesday at 6:11pm about an armed rob-

bery at Star Poker.

According to witnesses' accounts, the suspect entered the poker arcade, forced his way into the cashier's room brandishing a sharp object and demanded money.

The robber then fled the scene.

The suspect was described as about 5'9" tall, light com-

plexioned, wearing a black big, and had a blue long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that Narruhn's girlfriend is a cashier at the poker establishment.

In July 2013, police arrested Narruhn for allegedly choking his wife during an argument over her car that was driven by his girlfriend.

## FRANCES

From Page 1

approach us when we need help and to also let us know what we can do to be better. She has changed my entire life and let all of us know that we can do it."

The Teacher of the Year urged other educators to continue to "do what they do with love and care." She added, "I hope we can all continue to be an inspiration for our students."

Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero congratulated Taimanao.

"Not everybody can teach. Our dedicated faculty, staff, and administrators are not here for the money. Yes, the money helps, but it's not the money that brings us to this school," he said. "It is the commitment to helping each one of you to grow as individuals."

Several other teachers were also recognized for their perfect attendance and tenure at the private school. English teacher Candida Bahillo and vice president for curriculum and instruction Bobby Nelson Baldazo were honored as Distinguished AlumKnights for their over 12

years of service as educators at the school.

Elementary teacher Ariadne Snodgrass, P.E instructor Francis San Nicholas, science teacher Luz Baldazo, and foreign language teacher Tomoko Shimizu were recognized for their perfect attendance.

Students also paid tribute to the educators with a skit performed by the school's Theatre Club, a dance number, and a video presentation prepared by the student council.

Guerrero thanked City Parking and Richard Stein for funding the Teacher of the Year program for the past six years.

"Mr. Stein has demonstrated his commitment to Catholic education in general and Mount Carmel School in particular by supporting the heart of what we do, teaching," he said.

### Students give back

The school's celebration of Catholic Schools Week kicked off with a Mass on Sunday and continued with a Community Service Day on Monday, where students visited schools and cleaned up beaches.

Junior student Amalina Evangelista and her classmates visit-

ed William S. Reyes Elementary School to read to students and assist teachers in the classroom.

"It was a real great experience. It was interesting to see students engaged in the lesson and activities," she said.

WSR vice principal Marji Tarope said it was MCS' inaugural visit to the school as a part of Catholic Schools Week. "I think it is a good experience to have our students interact with the high school students. It is nice to have them come in and interact with them and have tutoring with reading and math. I think we are all excited."

MCS vice president of student affairs Ida Bahillo told *Saipan Tribune* that a central aspect of Catholic education is learning the importance of service.

"I believe it is empowering for our students to serve their community and realize the difference they can make," she added.

Students also took part in lectures conducted by community agencies. Cultural groups, the American Red Cross, NMC CREES, Division of Public Health, and Neighborhood Watch were among the list of presenters.

## ESFDB Principal's List, Honor Roll for Q2

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja congratulates the following students for making it to the 2nd Quarter Principal's List and Honor Roll. (Note that students are listed in alphabetical order according to their last names.)

### PRINCIPAL'S LIST

**1ST GRADE**  
Maratita, Edward Ulloa III  
**2ND GRADE**  
Mendiola, Star C.  
Tobongbanua, John Anthony  
**3RD GRADE**  
Ladao, Éclair Marj M.  
Mahusay, MJ  
Reyel, Brylle Angelo P.  
**5TH GRADE**  
Clitar, Marvin DIC.

### 'A' HONOR

**3RD GRADE**  
Manuel, SonJoe S.  
**4TH GRADE**  
Balgoa, Kaitlyn Amber P.

Clitar, John Kent DLC.  
**8TH GRADE**  
Calvo, Tyra Reese A.

### 'B' HONOR

**1ST GRADE**  
Hocog, Marco Edward B.  
Maratita, Diah A'Ina Q.  
Tacud, John Henry V.  
**2ND GRADE**  
Balce, Sharlane Angel V.  
Hocog, Titus Hugh T.  
**3RD GRADE**  
Hocog, Autumn Pasencia T.  
**5TH GRADE**  
Guiawan, Auston Marvin  
Mendiola, Maria Althea C.  
**6TH GRADE**  
Atalig, Jeremy John II  
Manglona, Raimundo Y.  
**7TH GRADE**  
Banaag, Marjorie D.  
Lucero, Angelo S.  
Reyes, Aneshia Cionny M.  
**8TH GRADE**  
Puerto, Joshua James O.

## TORRES

From Page 1

the government hiring freeze, and on critical legislative items that have been forwarded to him," Torres said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Torres expects the governor to return to work at the Governor's Office in a few days' time.

"As you know, the first 100 days is considered crucial for a new administration, and I am comforted to know that the governor is still hard at work. The governor is expected to be back to the office two to three days from now."

Inos' absence from public view has led to some speculations about the governor's health condition.

He was noticeably absent when Philippine Consul General to Guam Marciano De Borja made a visit to Capital Hill last week. Torres, instead of Inos, also attended Saturday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. He also didn't act on a bill creating the Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services, failing to either sign or veto it, leading to the bill's enactment into law.

There's no telling if the governor will be up and about to attend two proclamation signings this Friday at the Governor's Office.

Acting press secretary Ivan A. Blanco sent an invitation to the media yesterday "to join Gov. Inos and Lt. Gov Torres" for proclamation signings designating January 2015 as Stalking & HT Awareness and Prevention Month as well as Parent Leadership Month.

Inos' health was a hot topic during the 2014 general elections and subsequent runoff, with his opponents saying the governor is not being totally upfront about his health condition.

The governor, however, said he has always been open about his health condition, having earlier revealed that he's been receiving dialysis treatment for

his diabetes thrice a week.

Shortly after retuning from a routine checkup in the Philippines in early November last year, Inos disclosed that his medical leave to Manila was for a follow up to a bypass heart surgery he had in 2006.

In an interview with Blanco a few months ago, the acting PIO shared that what the governor is going through reminds him of what his stepfather is also going through.

"As you know diabetes affects many people regardless of age, gender, sex, etc. My stepfather and many in our community suffer from diabetes. This is a non-communicable illness that non-profit organizations, federal, and local government agencies are combating every day," he said.

Blanco said he and the rest of the Inos administration is appreciative of the concern of the community and he asks for the public to continue to pray for the governor's health.

"The fight against diabetes is an uphill battle and one that Gov. Inos and my stepfather personally know. Gov. Inos extends his appreciation and support to those who are under the effects of this illness but continue to serve their community, provide food on the table for their families, and never give up to serve in public service," he said.

With regards to the announcement of new Cabinet positions, Torres' chief of staff, Matt Guerrero, said the governor and lieutenant governor would finalize the list soon.

"I believe within the next week the full slate of Cabinet positions will be announced," he said.

So far, only acting Department of Natural Resources secretary Richard Seman and acting Department of Commerce secretary Mark Rabuiliman have been appointed by the new Inos-Torres administration.

Torres, in an earlier interview, said he doesn't expect wholesale changes in the composition of the new Cabinet, with just minor tweaks here and there.



# Hotel occupancy at 85 percent in December 2014

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 85.38 percent occupancy among 11 member hotels for December 2014, a 1-percent decrease compared to December 2013.

Room rates were \$139.73 during the month, compared to \$130.80 last December.

“December occupancy rates were slightly lower than December 2013. However, we were happy to see an increase

in room rates,” said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. “The additional funds raised by the 50-percent increase in the hotel occupancy tax that HANMI had pushed for through the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislature was to

generate funds to go toward promotions and destination enhancement by the Marianas Visitors Authority. Our support for this aggressive increase was important so that we continue to reinvest back

into the industry to keep it healthy. MVA has received a dollar budget from the government that puts the integrity of this in jeopardy. This dramatically reduced the funding that now has to be shared with

MVA operations. The importance to prioritize funding is more important than ever. Our Korea and China markets are still very much healthy. However, our Japan market is now considered a crisis market. We would like to emphasize the importance of a diversified destination. Much emphasis needs to be placed in growing this market back to health.”

In calendar year 2014, hotel occupancy averaged 82.41 percent, compared to 82.98 percent in 2013. The average room rate in 2014 was \$125.95, compared to \$113.32 in 2013.

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. **(HANMI)**

## Sablan named Vice-Ranking Member for full Natural Resources Committee

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—The Democratic Caucus of the House Natural Resources Committee organized its membership yesterday for the 114<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress and agreed to move Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) up to the position of Vice-Ranking Member for the entire committee. Sablan is one of the senior members of the Natural Resources Committee, having now served there for six years.

Sablan will retain the same authority over insular affairs he has exercised during the past four years as the lead Democrat on the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs. That subcommittee was disbanded by the new Republican Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Rob Bishop of Utah, and its responsibilities divided among three other subcommittees.

The Ranking Member of the Natural Resources Committee, Raúl Grijalva of Arizona, announced Sablan’s new position saying that “Mr. Sablan has been a tireless advocate on issues important to the insular areas and I urge all Members to seek his

guidance and counsel on those issues during this Congress. Too often, the Majority gives insular issues short-shrift, and Mr. Sablan’s leadership will be crucial.”

As Vice-Ranking Member of the full Committee, Sablan will also be able to continue the work he began on fisheries, particularly with respect to reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, and on ocean policy, two areas of special importance to the Northern Marianas.

In addition, the Northern Marianas Congressman will stand in for Ranking Member Grijalva at the full committee level. The Natural Resources Committee is responsible for a wide range of policy issues, including national parks, the U.S. Geological Survey, apportionment of water, Native Americans, mineral resources on public lands, and coastal zone management.

“I will remain focused on the insular issues of primary importance to my constituents in the Northern Mariana Islands,” Sablan said. “At the same time I look forward to taking on the

full gamut of issues that will come before the Natural Resources Committee in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress. I thank my Democratic Caucus colleagues for placing their trust in me with this new position of leadership.”

Along with his committee-wide responsibilities, Sablan also joined the new subcommittees on Indian, Insular, and Native Alaska Affairs and on Water, Power, and Oceans.

### Other posts

Democrats on the House Education and the Workforce Committee also organized yesterday. Sablan was able to use his seniority to stay in his current seat on the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, even though the total number of slots available there decreased. The number of seats on the Higher Education Subcommittee also shrank, as a result of increases in Republican ranks after the 2014 elections, thwarting Sablan’s goal of membership on that subcommittee.

Besides its responsibilities for elementary and secondary

education, Sablan’s subcommittee has jurisdiction over special education, career and technical education, school lunch and child nutrition programs, professional development programs for teachers, Head Start, the Child Care and Development Block Grant, and programs dealing with child abuse and domestic violence.

“I want to be at the center of decisions about how the federal government can help local jurisdictions run top-notch schools,” Sablan said. “Because what we do to educate our people today is the key to our prosperity 10, 20, 30 years into the future.

“That is why I joined the Education Committee in 2009 and why I will continue to work for students at every level in the educational system and for our youngest children and for mature adults to give everyone greater opportunity to learn and develop themselves.”

At yesterday’s meeting, staff

also briefed committee members on the prospects for legislation over the coming months. The House is expected to act on a bill, reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as early as March. In the Senate, Lamar Alexander (R-Tennessee), who chairs the committee responsible for education, has issued his discussion draft of an ESEA reauthorization.

“We may also start work on reauthorizing the Higher Education Act,” Sablan predicted. “And I will always be looking for legislative opportunities for training workers and matching them up to jobs in the economy, which is a very important aspect of education in the Northern Mariana Islands.”

Sablan also retained his membership on the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, or HELP, during yesterday’s organizational meeting. **(PR)**

## Completion of new Guam museum construction delayed

**HAGATNA, Guam (AP)**—Completion of the new Guam museum has been delayed because of complications with the construction.

*Pacific Daily News* reports the museum was slated to have opened in December.

Guam Economic Development Authority project coordinator Larry Toves says the opening is now set for the third quarter of this year.

Toves says issues with pile foundations caused the delay of the museum, which will be called the Guam and Chamorro

Educational Facility.

The pile foundations are concrete columns driven into the ground to support a structure that would be constructed on weak layers of soil.

The museum construction site was once swampland.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY • CNMI GOVERNMENT**  
**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: ITB15-DPS-035**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2015 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.  
E-BID SUBMISSION TO: [procurement@pticm.com](mailto:procurement@pticm.com)  
IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED ON THIS ITB.

**"PURCHASE OF TWELVE (12) SETS OF DELL WYSE THIN CLIENT  
ALL-IN-ONE COMPUTER WORKSTATIONS AND EQUIPMENT  
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS: IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO**  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**  
DIRECTOR, P&S

MATTHEW T. GREGORY (FO205)  
LAW OFFICE OF MATTHEW T. GREGORY, LLC  
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PMB 419 Box 10000  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. No. 670.234.9005/6  
Fax No. 670.235.9007  
Email Address: [matt@gregoryfirm.com](mailto:matt@gregoryfirm.com)

Attorney for Petitioners

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIANSHIP OF MINOR CHILDREN PANISA BENCHAKARN AND PATIPHON BENCHAKARN	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0037  NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP
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Minor Children,  
By

MATTHEW T. GREGORY AND  
WASANA N. GREGORY  
Petitioners

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

**NOTICE** is hereby given that Matthew T. Gregory and Wasana N. Gregory have filed a petition for the legal guardianship of the Minor Children in the Commonwealth Superior Court. The original petition is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court at Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, CNMI and the Law Office of Matthew T. Gregory, LLC, Suite 2-C, Sablan Building, Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, CNMI.

A hearing on the above-captioned matter will be held on February 19, 2015 at 10:30A.M. at the Commonwealth Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, CNMI.

Dated 1/27/15

CLERK OF COURT:  
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

**Notice of Zoning Board Meeting**  
The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room, Saipan  
(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: [www.zoning.gov.mp](http://www.zoning.gov.mp))

**A. Preliminary Matters**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of January 8, 2015 minutes
5. Public Comments  
(not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

**B. Public Hearings.**

- 1. Conditional Use Application #2015-0326:** Unicorn Corporation is proposing to manufacture and retail concrete hollow blocks. This use is classified as "Manufacturing and Processing" and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This area is identified as lot 030 B 21 in Tanapag village, and is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
- 2. Conditional Use Application #2014-4028:** Saipan International Real Estate Development Corp. dba: Ocean Vista Resort is proposing to operate a hotel with villas and residential uses. This use is classified as a "Planned Development" and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal will be situated on lots H 328-4, H-328-1, and TR 21698 on Capital Hill along Isa Drive. These areas are zoned as Rural.

**C. Communications/ Reports**  
**D. Old Business.**

1. None

**E. New Business**

1. Office Operations Report (Permit and Enforcement)
2. Review and Adoption of revised Zoning Fees

**E. Executive (Closed) Session.**

**G. Miscellaneous:** Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

**NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD  
PUBLIC HEARING**  
for  
**Ocean Vista Resort**

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan International Real Estate Development Corp. dba: Ocean Vista Resort is proposing to operate a hotel with villas and residential uses. This use is classified as a "Planned Development" and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal will be situated on lots H 328-4, H-328-1, and TR 21698 on Capital Hill along Isa Drive. These areas are zoned as Rural.

**Date: February 12, 2015, Thursday**  
**Time: 5:00 pm**  
**Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, February 11, 2015. Written comments may also be submitted via email to [therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

**NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD  
PUBLIC HEARING**  
for  
**Unicorn Corporation**

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Unicorn Corporation is proposing to manufacture and retail concrete hollow blocks. This use is classified as "Manufacturing and Processing" and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This area is identified as lot 030 B 21 in Tanapag village, and is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

**Date: February 12, 2015, Thursday**  
**Time: 5:00 pm**  
**Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

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For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman



# BOE member frets over future of federal funding

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A CNMI State Board of Education member cited the “moods of Congress” in her concern over the Public School System’s growing dependence on federal grants for some of its most essential programs.

At a board meeting on Tuesday, acting chair Marylou Ada asked if there is any contingency plan in case any programs were eliminated or reduced.

“We have to think in that direction sometimes, because I see that increasingly we’ve been so dependent on federal money.

It makes me scared that someday or tomorrow, by a stroke of a pen and by a bill introduced in Congress, one of these programs will disappear, and then what are we supposed to do? Is there a contingency plan in the event any of these federal grants get reduced or eliminated so we don’t jeopardize these programs?” she asked.

Ada directed her question to federal program officer Tim Thornburg, who has been instrumental in growing PSS’ share of federal funds in years past. Thornburg assured Ada by quoting former president Ronald Reagan who said, “Nothing

lasts forever in this world except a federal program.”

“My goal always is to grow the federal share,” he added.

Thornburg also cited the recent ballot initiative, HLI 18-12, which increased PSS’ share of local funds.

PSS’ federal grants total a little bit over \$35 million, according to Thornburg in his summary report of their 14 federal grants. This rounds out to a total budget of about \$62 million from local and federal sources.

Ada, who is also chair of the



Ada

Fiscal, Personnel, and Administration committee, said she does not want to report to the board that a program has been eliminated, when it may have been “at the heart of students succeeding and going off to college and finding jobs and being independent.”

“I really do not want to have that happen to any of our programs,” she said. “We always have to look seven steps ahead, what if, what if—and answer all those what ifs.”

Thornburg said most of their essential grant programs ap-

pear intact after their review of a draft education reauthorization bill made public this month by U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, chairman of the committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, or HELP.

“We got a copy of Sen. Alexander’s draft. We went over that carefully and Title I [grant] is there, Special Education is there—every one of our major education program...are all there and at a reasonable level of funding. So I think we are going to be good at least for the next five years. That’s as far as we can predict,” he said.

Alexander, a conservative, has been adamant in his push

for the education reauthorization in a Republican-led Congress this year. His draft bill, titled “Every Child Ready for College or Career Act of 2015,” is a reintroduction of sorts of a bill he pushed in 2013.

How education reauthorization plays out and how it will affect the students of the CNMI remains to be seen. From the most recent data, federal funds per pupil in the CNMI have jumped from \$2,031 in 2003 to \$2,875 in 2013.

In comparison, the local contribution per pupil was \$3,306 in 2003, averaging a decline over the 10-year period, to \$3,116 per pupil in 2013.

## Head Start execs to visit PSS in prep for Early Head Start implementation

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Public School System and State Board of Education have been notified of an upcoming site visit for the PSS Head Start Centers ahead of the implementation of the new Early Head Start program in the CNMI.

According to program coordinator Melissa Palacios, program specialists from the federal Office of Head Start are scheduled to arrive on Saipan on Feb. 9 to 10.

On Feb. 9., they would like to meet with the BOE chair, Head Start Policy Council chair, the Education Commissioner and her leadership team, the Head Start management team and the Child Care Program team, to discuss the Early Head Start program plans PSS will be implementing very soon, Palacios said.

On Feb. 10, the specialists will visit all program centers that will be used as Early Head Start Centers as well the child-care centers that will provide Early Head Start services.

PSS has been named with other districts across the nation that will be part of \$500 million Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grants last December. It was earlier reported that PSS will receive \$900,000 in grants.

In related news, the Head Start Policy Council has approved self-assessment and community assessment plans to be reviewed by the board’s Fiscal and Personnel Affairs committee in February.

Palacios described it as “an internal review of our program to measure where we are in regards to program implementation, making sure that we are continuing to provide high quality education to the students and the families.”

This assessment covers the entire program, service areas, human resources, program management, and program systems.

The community assessment, she said, looks at community demographics, looking at the number of population that out there that are potential Head Start-eligible children and families.

## Military meets with lawmakers on training plans

By JOEL D. PINAROC  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A closed-door meeting between members of the Legislature and U.S. military was held Tuesday to discuss issues concerning military exercises in the CNMI, particularly on Tinian.

The plan is under the Commonwealth Joint Military Training plan and the Environmental Impact Statement that the U.S. military intends to release.

In an interview with reporters, Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) confirmed that the

meeting took place. He declined, however, to give details about the meeting, saying only that the CJMT-EIS plan was discussed.

Hofschneider said he suggested to the Senate that the U.S. military officials be invited again so that more members of the Legislature can “listen” to what the military officials had to say about the CJMT-EIS plan.

The lawmaker made the suggestion at the first session of the Senate 19th Legislature.

There is no schedule yet as to when the next meeting between

U.S. military officials and members of the Legislature will take place.

In October 2014, former Tinian mayor Ramon Dela Cruz wrote the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs to ask for technical assistance on military development issues.

Specifically, Dela Cruz wants to hire a retired military officer who will help Tinian deal with the several military plans involving the island.

In early 2013, the U.S. Department of Defense published new proposals to establish a series of live-fire and maneuver

ranges and training areas on Tinian and Pagan, two months after the release of a study showing insufficient training facilities in the Western Pacific, particularly those in the CNMI.

The Defense Department also said it intends to prepare an overseas environment impact statement.

It said the expansion of these training areas and construction of new ones will satisfy identified training deficiencies for the U.S. Pacific Command forces that are based in or regularly train in the CNMI.

## Swift Air officials: Saipan Air fails to identify improper reimbursements

Swift Air LLC executives Jeffrey Conry and Boris Van Lier are claiming that Saipan Air LLC has failed to identify any improper reimbursements from Swift Air to either of them.

Conry and Van Lier, through counsel Michael A. White, asserted that if there were such an improper reimbursement, Swift Air, or the litigation trustee in the Swift Air bankruptcy, might at most have a claim against Conry and Van

Lier to recover assets belonging to the corporation.

White brought up the reimbursement matter, among other issues, in Conry’s and Van Lier’s reply in support of their motion in limine.

In their motion, the defendants want to exclude eight classes of evidence, primarily on grounds of relevancy and unfair prejudice.

White asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to exclude

evidence relating to Van Lier’s credit card statements.

“Evidence that the reimbursements were not audited and that defendant Van Lier’s requests for reimbursement were not questioned by Swift Air does not make this evidence relevant to the remaining issues in this case,” he said.

The lawyer said Saipan Air argues that Swift Air had paid some of Van Lier’s personal expenses.

But White said although Van Lier’s credit card statements have been produced, Saipan Air did not identify a single reimbursement for personal expenses that it said was wrongfully made by Swift Air to Van Lier.

Furthermore, White pointed out that a personal benefit is not an element of a fraud claim.

The lawyer said evidence related to defendants’ salaries and reimbursements made by Swift Air to defendants should be excluded.

White said the defendants’ salaries may be relevant if the jury is permitted to consider awarding punitive damages.

However, he said, reimbursements the defendants received more than 30 months ago for expenses they incurred on behalf of Swift Air have no relevance to their current net worth or financial position.

White asked the court that Saipan Air be prevented from making characterization of defendants using Swift Air

as “their personal ATM” to describe Saipan Air’s unsupported belief that defendants were siphoning funds away from Swift Air.

The lawyer said any statement that defendants used Swift Air as their “personal ATM” has no relevance to the remaining claims in this case and would serve no purpose other than to provide “shock value.”

White said the court should exclude testimony regarding Conry’s involvement with other airlines that entered bankruptcy because it would only result in unfair prejudice, confusion of the issues, and undue delay.

White said there is nothing fraudulent about being involved with a company that seeks the protections offered by the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

In Saipan Air’s response to the motion, Saipan Air counsel Steven Pixley said the defendants’ involvement in other airlines that later filed for bankruptcy shows a pattern of their fraudulent scheme.

Pixley alleged, among other things, that Conry’s and Van Lier’s fraudulent scheme included the acquisition of Swift Air with a plan to ultimately file for bankruptcy after obtaining as much money from Saipan Air as they could obtain.

In its lawsuit, Saipan Air is seeking \$2.5 million in compensatory damages and \$10 million in punitive damages. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



### HONORING REYES

Sen. Francisco Borja (Ind-Tinian) reads the Senate Commemorative Resolution honoring former senator Pete Tenorio for his many years of service to the CNMI government and the Legislature during the Senate’s session Tuesday on Capital Hill, as other senators and Reyes’ wife, Glenna, look on.

JOEL L. PINAROC



# Torres installs SHRM board members today

Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres will swear in today this year's board of directors of the Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.

This year will mark the Chapters 18<sup>th</sup> year of providing an affiliate branch of the National Society for Human Resource Management Association for the Commonwealth's human resource professionals.

The Chapter's 2015 board of directors is composed of president Frank L. Gibson, owner, HR Support, CNMI (1997 founding member); vice president Josephine DLG Mesta, director of Human Resources, Hyatt Regency Saipan (1997 founding member); treasurer Esther Ada, Human Resource manager, DFS Saipan, Ltd.; secretary Micah Parico-Acuavera, executive assistant, Triple J Saipan, Inc.; board members Ernesto Lacorte, chief financial officer, Saipan SDA Clinic; Evan Hunsberger, training manager, Pacific Islands Club Saipan; Bertha C. Leon Guerrero, Human Resource manager, Micronesia Resorts, Inc.; and adviser Maria Luisa Ernest, director of Human Resources, Tan Holdings, Inc.. They will be joined on the board by past president Nora Mae Sablan, service manager, TakeCare Insurance Company, Inc.

Besides conducting the installation ceremony, Torres will also be the special guest speaker at the Chapter's first general membership meeting today.

He will address issues related to what the human resource community can expect in the upcoming year relative to jobs, immigration issues, the work-

force, workforce training opportunities, the looming manpower shortage with the anticipated casinos and other development, and other employment and hu-

man resource related topics. Torres will also respond to questions from the audience.

Today's meeting will be held from 11:30am to 1:30pm and

will include lunch at a cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited and can be reserved by contacting Parico-Acuavera by phone at 234-1795 or by e-mail at [corporate@triplejsaipan.com](mailto:corporate@triplejsaipan.com) or by e-mail to Gibson at [flgibson@yahoo.com](mailto:flgibson@yahoo.com). (**SHRM**)

## BOE proclaims Feb 2-6 School Counselors Week

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**  
[dennis\\_chan@saipantribune.com](mailto:dennis_chan@saipantribune.com)  
 REPORTER

The CNMI State Board of Education proclaimed Feb. 2-6 as "School Counselors Week" for the district's public schools during a meeting on Tuesday.

Public School System counselors and a crowd of students attended the proclamation signing by acting chair Marylou S. Ada.

The proclamation recognized counselors for their active commitment in helping students explore their abilities, strengths, interests and talents, among other things.

According to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita M. Sablan, they will be naming the Counselor of the Year in February.

She spoke of the growth they've made in their counsel-

ing program, with now only four PSS schools lacking counselors. She said they hope to re-

cruit more counselors from the Northern Marianas College.

Starting in February, the PSS

website will have a portal featuring highlights of their school counselors, showing "the things

they do," Sablan said.

The American School Counselor Association has sponsored National Counseling Week "Spice Up Your Counseling Program" from Feb. 2 to 6.



DENNIS B. CHAN

Public School System counselors, students, and officials gather for a photo after the Board of Education proclaimed Feb. 2 to 6 "School Counselors Week" at the BOE conference room.



**ALTER CITY GROUP**

**ALTER CITY GROUP** is a renowned and successful international real estate and property development and investment company with offices in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Zhuhai and Headquarters located in Macau. Current key projects include developing, constructing and operating 2 five-star first class integrated hotels and casino resort, an 18-hole international golf course, a water themed park, VIP villas and other associated facilities complex located at San Jose, Tinian in CNMI.

Our recent expansion in CNMI has created exciting opportunities and we now invite competent candidates to join us for a challenging career in our growing team within our organization.

### OPERATIONS MANAGER

#### Responsibilities:

- Responsible for the purchase of materials, plan inventory and ensure operations efficiency;
- Responsible and lead for a wide ranging for a wide ranging brief-facilities management, people management and finance;
- Contribute towards the achievement of Company's strategic and operational objectives;
- Managing all security and other systems ensuring all procedures are complied with and appropriate risks are assessed;
- Conducting and implementing OM & workflow;
- Ensures that the business achieves the required licenses and safety standards to comply with national health, fire and safety regulations thus ensuring the safety of the corporate staff and public.
- Performs quality controls and implement/monitor production KPI's including setting operational goals to meet.
- Manage and implement any software necessary for business growth.

#### Qualifications:

- College graduate;
- Minimum of 8 years of related experience;
- Excellent communications skills (verbal and written);
- Multilingual in the Chamorro, Chinese and/or Japanese or Korean languages is advantageous;
- Must be willing to work flexible hours.

### CLIENT RELATIONSHIP MANAGER

#### Responsibilities:

- Correspond with employees and external stakeholders to keep them informed of Company developments;
- Communicate externally with the media and other interested parties to announce corporate news and discuss organizational changes in a way that attempts to maintain positive image of the Company;
- Identify key media opportunities, plan public relations programs including the preparation of cost budgets;
- Present controversy discussions/debates on behalf of the organization to the government;
- Respond to inquiries from the public, media and other organizations;
- Arrange interviews with journalists, prepare and distribute media releases and make statements to the media/public;
- Manage the creation and development of print and online advertising, email marketing, website management and content development, press releases, bylined articles, white papers, corporate videos and any marketing collateral.

#### Qualifications:

- College graduate;
- Minimum of 1-2 years of related experience;
- Excellent communications skills (verbal and written);
- Must be willing to work flexible hours.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

#### Responsibilities:

- Manage public relations department by planning, directing or coordinating activities designed to create and maintain a favorable public image or raise issue awareness for the Company;
- Maintain effective working relationships with local and municipal government officials and media representatives;
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with clients, government officials, and media representatives and use of these relationships to develop new business opportunities;

- Write effective press releases, prepare information for media kits and develop and maintain Company internet or intranet web pages;
- Identify main client groups and audiences, determine the best way to communicate publicity information to them and develop and implement a communication plan;
- Draft speeches for Company executives and arrange interviews and other form of contact;
- Evaluate advertising and promotion programs for compatibility with public relations efforts;
- Assign, supervise and review the activities of the Public Relations staff.

#### Qualifications:

- College graduate;
- Excellent communications skills (verbal and written);
- Multilingual in the Chamorro, Chinese and/or Japanese or Korean languages is advantageous;
- Must be willing to work flexible hours.

### FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING MANAGER

#### Responsibilities:

- Plan, execute and finalize assigned project according to strict deadlines and within budget including acquiring resources and coordinating the efforts of team members, and third party contractors or consultants in order to deliver according to plan;
- Setting up accounting system for new hotels and provide directions and support to all hotels in the group;
- Responsible for full set of accounting including tax returns and independently oversee the financial daily operation;
- Administer and monitor the financial system on order to ensure that the municipal finances are maintained in an accurate and timely manner;
- Oversee the accounts payable and accounts receivable systems in order to ensure complete and accurate records of all monies;
- Prepare monthly financial statement and financial reports;
- Responsible for forecasting and budgeting;
- Maintain fixed asset and depreciation registers on a monthly/quarterly basis;

#### Qualifications:

- Must be a Certified Public Accountant;
- Minimum of 2-4 years of related experience;

### OPERATIONS ASSISTANT

#### Responsibilities:

- Assist in resolving problems on day-to-day basis in all operational areas;
- Ensure that operational activities are executed within allotted budget, timelines and corporate policy;
- Responsible for the execution of the regulations development, procedures, and operating instructions tailored to the specific need of the business and addresses such functions as logistics and facilities management, range operations and administrative requirements, etc.;
- Responsible for the management of supply chain, order processing including thorough documentation;
- Maintain database of both internal and external needs;
- Prepare responses to correspondence containing routine inquiries;
- Perform other duties as assigned.

#### Qualifications:

- High school graduate;
- Minimum of 5 years related experience;
- Excellent communications skills (verbal and written);
- Multilingual in the Chamorro, Chinese and/or Japanese or Korean languages is advantageous;
- Must be willing to work flexible hours.

### HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT

#### Responsibilities:

- Provide full support to HR Manager by assisting in managing day-to-day office admin or HR activities;
- Assist in managing policies, procedures and conduct internal employee programs;
- Maintain and updated employee files, and job specification for each hiring positions;
- Hands on in HR Database Management, Legal Compliance/Code of Conduct, Organization Development/Process Improvement, Performance & Career Management, Recruitment & Selection, etc.;
- Arrange official appointments and meetings, record minutes and distribute;
- Manage the office administration system to secure overall Company efficiency, productivity and cost effectiveness;
- Perform other HR duties as assigned.

#### Qualifications:

- High school graduate;
- Minimum of 1-2 years related experience;
- Excellent communications skills (verbal and written);
- Multilingual in the Chamorro, Chinese and/or Japanese or Korean languages is advantageous;
- Must be willing to work flexible hours.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

#### Responsibilities:

- Engage in promoting or creating an intended public image for the Company;
- Respond to requests for information from the media;
- Write press releases and other media communications for promotion;
- Establish or maintain cooperative relationships with representatives of community, consumer, employee or public interest group;
- Prepare or edit organizational publications such as employee newsletters or stockholders reports for internal and external audiences;
- Arrange public appearances, lectures, contests or exhibits for client to increase product of service awareness or to promote goodwill;
- Perform all other tasks assigned by management;
- Field media inquiries and present proposed responses for management;

#### Qualifications:

- Associate's degree;
- Minimum of 2-4 years related experience;
- Excellent communications skills (verbal and written);
- Must be willing to work flexible hours.

### ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

#### Responsibilities:

- Managing bank accounts;
- Consolidating annual accounting statements;
- Preparing tax returns;
- Assisting in any form of auditing;
- Reconciling balance sheets;
- Preparing financial reports;
- Assist in other financial reporting functions when need arise;
- Perform other as hoc tasks.

#### Qualifications:

- Associate's degree;
- Minimum of 1-2 year related experience.

Qualified applicants must submit a resume with a cover letter to [hr.cnmi@altercitygroup.com](mailto:hr.cnmi@altercitygroup.com) by FEBRUARY 6, 2015. Salary is commensurate with work experience and education.

For inquiries, please contact Robert T. Torres, Esq. at 234-7859 or by email at [rttlaw@pticom.com](mailto:rttlaw@pticom.com).

**Equal Opportunity Employer**

Plumeria Golf & Casino Resort  
 Tinian, CNMI





# Tyce Mister is Gold's Gym Saipan's new GM

Gold's Gym Saipan, the largest full-service fitness facility in the Commonwealth, announced yesterday the appointment of veteran athlete Tyce Mister to the position of general manager effective Feb. 1, 2015.



Mister

The appointment of Mister signals an enhanced focus and commitment to the gym's

product and services for its members. Kanae Quinn said: "We are absolutely delighted that Tyce will be joining the team, as I'm convinced he will be able to provide the gym with his unique energy, leadership and resources to this new position."

Mister, a long-time resident of Saipan, brings with him a

wealth of experience through his teaching, hospitality and sports-oriented background. Mister's favorite sports include cycling, beach volleyball, triathlon and soccer.

Gold's Gym Saipan, located near Sugar King Park in Garapan, is open Monday to Friday, from 5:30am to 9pm; Saturdays from 7am-7pm; and Sundays from 10am-6pm. For more information, call 233-4000. **(Gold's Gym)**

## February to be designated Parent Leadership Month

In celebration of the 2015 National Parent Leadership Month, the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs' Division of Youth Services will be highlighting February 2015 as the CNMI's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Parent Leadership Month.

To kick off the monthlong celebration, the proclamation signing is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 30, 2015, at 10:30am at the Office of the Governor.

Parent Leadership Month signifies the importance of family strengthening programs and activities to help prevent child abuse and neglect incidents.

Through the DYS Parents Anonymous Inc. in the CNMI, Parent Leadership Month was initiated in February of 2004 to recognize the leadership roles

of parents who have one way or another reached out to make a positive difference in their families and communities.

National Parent Leadership Month highlights the many opportunities available for parents, professionals, policymakers, and all interested community members to engage in collaboration with the goal of building and supporting strong and safe families.

Parent leaders in the CNMI are recognized annually through public and private schools as well as other community organizations. In partnership with the 2014 Parent Leader award-ees and various community organizations, DCCA-DYS will honor the 2015 Parent Leader nominees, conduct outreach

activities at various schools and the DCCA Nutrition Assistance Program and coordinate a Parent Development Workshop on Feb. 28, 2014.

The Parent Leadership Development Workshop will feature topics on healthy lifestyles to include nutrition, non-communicable disease prevention, parenting skills and networking activities with parent leaders and workshop participants. Community assistance agencies will also be on site to provide awareness of their programs and services.

For more information, contact Junnie Masga or Maria Olopai of the DYS Parent Education Program at 664/2552 or 664-2585. **(Office of the Governor)**



Tyce Mister's favorite sports include cycling, beach volleyball, triathlon and soccer.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Joeten-Kiyu library closed next week

This is to inform the public that the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed from Feb. 3 to Feb. 7, 2015, due to its annual inventory. Thank you for your understanding. For more information, call 235-7322/23. **(JKPL)**

#### Air Force training today at Warning Area 517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at Warning Area 517 today, Jan. 29, from 2am to 2pm and 8pm to 11:59pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the area during the times and date indicated. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprised of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. **(PR)**

#### SHRM to hold first 2015 meeting today

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will host Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres as its special guest speaker at the group's first general membership meeting of 2015, today, Jan. 29, at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club. The program will include the installation ceremony for the 2015 board. This meeting will be held from 11:30am to 1:30pm and will include lunch at a cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited and can be reserved by contacting Micah Parico-Acuavera by phone at 234-1795 or by e-mail at [corpoffice@triplejsaipan.com](mailto:corpoffice@triplejsaipan.com) or by e-mail to Frank Gibson at [fgibson@yahoo.com](mailto:fgibson@yahoo.com). **(SHRM)**

#### Kagman High sessions with parents

Kagman High School will be having four sessions for parents in the Kagman, Capital Hill, and San Vicente areas and four sessions for parents in Tanapag, San Roque, and As Matius areas. The dates are as follows:

- KHS Café: Feb. 7, March 7, and April 14
- Tanapag Head Start Center: Jan. 31, Feb. 21, March 21, and April 18

Finale will be May 2 and it will be a carnival theme with entertainment by our very own KHS students. Parents that come with their child will receive three raffle tickets for the drawing at the end of the school year and 10 tickets for use at the carnival. Students will receive a raffle ticket for the school drawing and 10 tickets for the carnival. **(KHS)**

#### OVR counselors to hold outreach in Susupe

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation counselors will be conducting an outreach session at the House of Manhoben, located behind the cemetery next to

Susupe Chapel on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2015, from 9am to 11am. An applicant is eligible for vocational rehabilitation services if the individual: 1) has a disability; 2) has a physical or mental impairment which for that individual constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment; and can benefit in terms of an employment outcome from vocational rehabilitation services; 3) requires vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, or retain employment; and 4) has legal status to allow employment in the CNMI or United States. **(OVR)**

#### Private schools invited to membership meeting

The Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools is inviting all private schools in the CNMI to attend an open membership meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 3:30pm at Mount Carmel School's faculty lounge. The purpose of the meeting will be to allow current and prospective members of the coalition to submit required items for membership, as well as to move forward with several initiatives. Private schools on Rota and Tinian may also participate in the CCOPS meeting via Google Hangouts. For more information, contact CCOPS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero at [galvin.deleonguerrero@gmail.com](mailto:galvin.deleonguerrero@gmail.com). **(CCOPS)**

#### NMPASI closed on Jan. 30

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. would like to let the public know that our office will be closed on Jan. 30, 2015, from 8am to 5pm, for Staff Development. Business will resume on Feb. 2, 2015. **(PR)**

#### NMDC membership meeting set

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp., a chartered non-profit, will hold a general membership meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015, starting at 6pm, at the Carolinian Ut in Garapan. The agenda includes developing and adopting the 2015 Community Action Plan; membership recruitment; election of officers & standing committees; and updating the NMD *amicus curiae* filed with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. **(PR)**

#### Free training on effective parenting

Brilliant Star School will be offering a "Parent Effectiveness Training" at no charge to anyone in the community interested in attending. The training will be held on Feb. 4 from 6:30pm to 8pm at the Brilliant Star School located on Navy Hill. The talk is appropriate for parents of all age children. The presenter, Ganasini Iris, holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from State University of New York and a master's degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Oregon. For more information contact Brilliant Star School at (670) 323-STAR (7827). **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A house fire in Fina Sisu Village in the late evening of Jan. 26, 2015, completely destroyed the dwelling.

## Red Cross aids victim of Fina Sisu fire

The American Red Cross NMI Chapter assisted the victim of a house fire in Fina Sisu Village in the late evening of Jan. 26, 2015. The individual lost all personal belongings in the fire that completely destroyed the dwelling.

"We are grateful that the victim was unharmed," the Chap-

ter said in a statement yesterday.

The American Red Cross Disaster Action Team was on scene and provided temporary shelter and assistance for food, clothing and other personal needs.

"We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our donors and our CNMI community.

Their support makes it possible for the Red Cross to continue its mission of providing hope and relief to victims of disasters," said Paul W. Camacho, Emergency Services director of the American Red Cross.

For information regarding the Red Cross, contact Camacho at 670-234-3459. **(ARC)**



# Cafe MangoSix to hold grand opening today

» Park promises quality service, products for tourists and residents

By THOMAS MANGLONA II  
CORRESPONDENT

“Sensual,” “sweet,” “social,” “slim,” “sexy,” and “style” are the six “S’s” that MangoSix Cafe promises to bring to the island community. The newly established coffee and desert business next to Twins Market in lower Dandan is holding its grand opening today from 6am to 10pm.

A group of selected residents got a sneak peek at the café’s products and services during a soft opening on Tuesday.

The premium café serves coffee, fresh juices, hamburgers, daily baked breads, fresh lemonade, smoothies, and other desserts. Featuring free WiFi, an outdoor balcony, water fountains, and seats enough for 200 people, MangoSix is sure to be the new meeting and study destination for teens and adults.

All of its newly hired 25 employees are local students and its fresh coffee is brewed from



Cafe owner Sun Moon Ahn, his wife Jin-Mi Lee, and general manager Jae Park pose for a photo at the soft opening of MangoSix Cafe on Tuesday.

local coffee beans, customized to MangoSix’s signature flavor.

General manager Jae Park explained that the café’s mission is fourfold. “We strive to think and act from the customer’s perspective, implement thorough

quality controls and standards, create innovative new friends and values, and grow together with mutual respect and trust,” he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Park said the island’s substantial number of tourists prodded

the owner to build the cafe on Saipan. “We wanted to come over here to satisfy the locals and also the foreign customers who have already tried MangoSix.”

Park said the cafe’s ultimate

goal is to foster a strong bond with the island community

while contributing to its local economy.

“I want people to know that I would not put something on the menu that I would not eat myself. Everything we have is high quality and no one can beat us.”

Cafe manager Anna Rose D. Ching said she is happy with the public’s response to the soft opening. “Everybody is so happy that MangoSix came to Saipan. I hope we can make this company successful and have a smooth operation.”

“This is going to be the best cafe on island,” one resident said. “People can relax here and whenever you have to work on things people can come here too. I think the students will enjoy this the most.”

MangoSix is part of a 160 cafe franchise across the globe. It has locations in South Korea, Atlanta, Georgia, and California. The business is only four years old, but its chief executive officer, Kang Hoon, is known as the Coffee King of South Korea.



MangoSix employees pose for a photo during the soft opening of the cafe.



THOMAS MANGLONA II

Rep. Angel Demapan, former senator Thomas Villagomez, and Rep. John Paul Sablan bite into MangoSix’s hamburgers.



THOMAS MANGLONA II

This girl is the first to taste MangoSix Cafe’s mango bingsu.



THOMAS MANGLONA II

MangoSix Cafe can hold up to 200 people and has parking space for 30 vehicles.



THOMAS MANGLONA II

Guests enjoy the cafe’s comfortable seats while posing for a photo.



# Opinion

Hafa Adair!

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### The reality of American sniper Chris Kyle

To say that truth is stranger than fiction is really to say it's more complex.

Life, real life, is always more layered and difficult than anything we will read in a book or see on a screen.

The story of the Navy Seal Chris Kyle should remind us of this. And Texans should pay special attention to it. Kyle was one of our own, a man cut in the mold of our state's legendary heroes. And his real story is something we should try to understand as he becomes a part of our history.

The story of Kyle on film, portrayed through Clint Eastwood's lens in "American Sniper," and the real man Kyle was are far from a perfect match. No matter how expertly the actor Bradley Cooper might portray him, the Kyle of the film is a facsimile, a shadow version of a real man.

Kyle's story, both fictional and true, is really a story of war. And nowhere are questions of life and death so complex as they are in war. In the fog and fear of battle, decisions are instant and even unconscious. Men at war are not the same as men at peace.

The film version of Kyle presents us with a moral man who struggles to simplify this complexity. In Cooper's eyes, we see the fictional Kyle grapple with the enormity of what he's done as a warrior—even as his words assure us of his confidence in the justness of his deeds.

It's hard to know whether Kyle, the real man, shared this deep-seated sense of ambiguity about what he did. Kyle embraced his place in history as the deadliest American sniper in history, with 160 kills to his credit. He claimed many more.

He also was known to garland his legend with stories that were unverifiable. His story about killing two would-be carjackers on Highway 67 never panned out under scrutiny. Another story about trucking to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and cutting down 30 or so bad guys is even more outlandish. Then there was the story about him punching former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura for slurring SEALs, something Ventura denied happened.

The film avoids addressing these incidents as it softens Kyle's edges—his demonization of his enemy, his pitting of faith against faith.

The real Kyle was anything but a simple man. He understood very clearly the cost of war and the price that battle tolls on those who fight. But Kyle in real life seemed to struggle far less with war's moral ambiguity than the film would suggest.

Kyle described himself as two different people—one at war and one at home. He could "turn it on and turn it off." He had no regrets.

We can go and see the story of Chris Kyle on film. We can read his book. We can watch interviews of him on the Internet. We can study facts about his claims. We can try to piece together what's real and what isn't.

We can never know Chris Kyle.

(c)2015 The Dallas Morning News



## A VALEDICTORY

*not a bang but a whimper;  
the lady's hair fluttering on air  
making "not a brush stroke  
but a quiet whisper"*

I come to the end of my "opinionating" as I cruise *Pinoylandia*. With most readers of this column reportedly from here, and with the breadth of coverage I gave my columns, it was hard to miss anyone on the "stepped-on-your-toes" department. Readers comment that they sensed contrariness in my demeanor but are lucid that my writings were simply to express a selfhood, a confident "selfie", to the end.

Here's my picture of the fullness of being: we intuitively "sense," "feel," "know," and "do," a set of tools in our arsenal of capabilities. "Being" is the intensification of the "sense-feel-know-do" continuum. Metaphysically, "being" intensifies knowing and doing. To know what I know and do what I do is to be, to become. This is beyond Descartes *cogito ergo sum* declaration that favors the head-trip. Ours goes with the gut-trip: "I am, therefore, I think, one of the four basic functions that makes me and other humans who we are!"

If you are lost, keep reading. Others use the word "spirit" to designate this "being me" category and we concur if done without the extra luggage of magical hocus-pocus, the escape into the hairy-fairy realm of enigmatic mystery, *deus ex machina* on matters that account for the boundaries of human limits. Since we know phenomenologically that what anyone says redounds to being a "self-statement" regardless of whether the pronouncement's logic is circuitous and non-linear, we rely on the power of metaphor when direct discourse is too blunt to accomplish our aim; however, we paraphrase the testy Winston Churchill when he posited that all accounts of life are autobiographical.

It is not important what our "gurus" say; it is what you and I say about our own journey that counts. Though academic learning rests on the ability to quote someone, accounts of self-consciousness, the consciousness of consciousness, and the thin air beyond, is the domain we usually describe with the all-encompassing term "god," though they are demonstrably autobiographical confessions. That is why theology, once the queen of medieval science, is bunk in our time, of necessity, a theologian's wild imaginings find its way into telling the narrative. Were theology to remain a valid discourse in the same way as alchemy is still practiced, I relegate it to the field of symbolic gestures and poetry that require metaphorical translations!

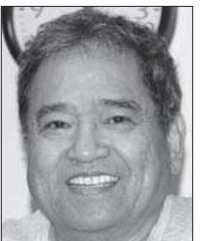
After a decade of literary opinionating, what valedictory statements do I make? The hair flutters 'n whispers four statements.

**Life is good.** It just is. To imagine "is not" is a waste of intellect.

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at [pinoypanda2031@aol.com](mailto:pinoypanda2031@aol.com).



Admittedly, we grow up in a culture where "life as is" is *dejado* (at a disadvantage at the gate of existential *pintakasi*, [cockfight]); we are handicapped at the start. In the Semitic traditions of the Levant, the beginning is caricatured as allured by a snake. To imagine what is not is to engage in illusion, and mirage is ultimate deception in the desert. I say, life just is, not always just but is irrevocably IS. In fact, its Is-ness is its comparative advantage. Of a minimum of 200 million sperms that careened to be me, only one made it, chosen by the ovum from the 200-some sperm stragglers that made it to its walls! The wonder of birth is not being an onset of living as it is an arrival, of having made it. One opts the manner of its flowering, thereby, *llamado en la puerta*, however it is sliced.

**The past is done.** It is *finis*, *kaput*, *terminus*, over. Time travel is H.G. Wells' utopian dreaming. We do not relive the past and undo what was already done, nor does the past determine the present, unless we decide to make it so. To be incarnate is to choose that our *carne* is our *karma*, and our *karma* is our *carne*. We picked up our path; there is no error to make, only a decision made.

**The present is a gift.** That's why it is called "present," silly. Folks take a moment as the present, measured in minutes, hours, days, months, or years, which turns the "before" into a past often bewailed, anticipating a fearful future that scares the bejesus out of us. My present is a whole tapestry of 86 years grounded in specific times and places, with roles I play among specific persons, and a story I spin to keep the human narrative gyrating and swirling 'til the end. My "one moment in time," a "first time in forever," where I dance through the bright day and dark night of the soul is 86 years of duration. I chose to be conscious, and tell the "selfie" story of my treasured singular existence of "one, unique, unrepeatable gift of life into human history, unlike anything or anyone before, and not having another one ever again," to which I add, "just like you and all the bipeds that walk this planet, along other flakes in *Dong Bei* snow." Diversity and uniqueness make life's texture!

**The future is open.** Oh, the door is so wide open. One only needs to decide. Watch this. Goodbye!



# Pinadesen Malañgu

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



Pinadesen atbansau na chetnot kanset sumen makat parehu ha` para i malañgu yan familia. Gi uttimu besis `nai kumama i malañgu dumaña i familia para u fan assiste. Megai giya hita chumage este na ekspiriensia gi hospitat `sino gi gima` `nai esta sala` i chetnot ya tiempu ha` tethnan.

Un amigahu matan brabu yan magof `nai sige ha sañgan na numa`lu tatte hinemloña. Kuattru mesis dispues madispone. I brinabuña kulan mohon uttimu despedida lau magof i prohima. Buente ni guiya tiha tuñgu` haf` mamamaila`.

Hu konsidera kau tinataka` silensiu na mensahe na ha bisita yan umadiñgane i man-hihot siha na mañeluña yan parientes? Guaha mohon pininite pot ha sesiente ha hihot esta para humanauña? Pat mas ha` gi hinalula sa` ha tuñgu` na mauleg na lugat para u hanague?

Makat na fina` pos para todü. Magahet sumen na ma`agem kusumbre-ta dinaña yan motmut na ayudu gi esta ti muna` siña. Bendsion i Saina!

## Man-ñahlalañg

Ilegña si Senadot Sixto Igisomar na i kondision fondun iya Marianas gaige na mamatmos gi papa` tasi. Malagu` man-ayuda umesgaihon este na chinatsaga kosake siña man-nañgu hit gi supin tasi. Dinancheña `an mamahan si señor lamegai na antios ya umadaña`e

# Reforming the CNMI healthcare system

By **GRANT E. WALKER, M.D.**  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

*Editor's Note: The following is the testimony offered by orthopedic surgeon Dr. Grant E. Walker in reference to Senate Bill 19-04, which proposes to transform the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. advisory board into a governing body. This testimony has been submitted to the Senate and House Health Care Committees.*

## Third part of a series

My contract was swiftly ended for “insubordination,” even though I was not in a subordinate role to anyone. Due process was skirted. The hospital bylaws for a hearing and appeal were simply denied by the CEO and her DMA sidekick. The chief of staff ran away from the situation and for the security of his job; I can’t really blame him. Now it got even worse. Now, carrying that little girl with her mom turned out to be an act of the second coming of the devil. All of this was put on paper. None of this was true. None of this was confidential as the letter was delivered by the police on a restaurant patio during which time I was being interviewed to do some occasional orthopedic helping out in Guam.

I had three patients in the hospital whom I had just performed sur-

# It’s the poor who get short shrift on college subsidies

By **JUDAH BELLIN**  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

One could be forgiven for thinking that it’s the middle class who have suffered most from America’s failed higher-education policies, which saddled students with years of debt. Putative reformers invoke the plight of the middle class almost exclusively. President Obama’s plan to link financial aid to certain college performance metrics is from a proposal called “A Better Bargain for the Middle Class.” Likewise, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), who has proposed dropping interest rates for college loans to near zero, described student debt as an “emerging threat to the middle class.”

But more than the middle class, it is the poor who truly have something to complain about.

In his State of the Union address Tuesday, Obama again suggested that tuition-free community colleges are a way to break down financial barriers to a degree. But his administration has for years let grant and loan programs for the poor wither.

This neglect is most apparent in what’s happened to the Perkins Loan Program and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, both means-tested aid programs targeted to the students most in need.

The Perkins, FSEOG and Federal Work-Study programs were the only U.S. student aid programs that shrank during the last decade, according to a 2012-2013 College Board report. FSEOG funding

ni pumalu man li`uf sa` taduñg na fondun tasi `nai gaige kaskon `sino kara` kahan iya Marianas. `An in` seda`, pot fabot hatsa hulu`.

Lamegai tautau-ta man-inadite chetnot daibites, kanset yan korason. Satbasion? Mauleg ta estudiaye haf` na i Chinu mas anaku` ha`aniña ke haf` na rasan tautau. Gaige lamayot patte gi sentadan yan gimen biha entalu` golai yan cha.

Pot masoda` ni bisita-ta aplacha yan mutuñg komun publiku na esta nina` fan `u`uha`, ilegña si Representante Leepan na guiya para una gasgas diariu. Ke lau haye propiu ahensia gai responsablidad este? Ilegña si Señor Leepan na para una`ye Pine Sol para u disiente pau i kemon siha.

Makansela todü kareran ruplanu guine gi mapos na semana. Layu` i kabesanten lehislatura sa` ti siña machogue che`chu` niha gi hilu` tanu`. Mapayune hilu` aire ni hita ni publiku umapapase fletin niha. Dimoñu` fañaga ya in` chegue che`chu` linahyan!

Tumalaya-yu` yan amigo Magoo. `Nai dumeskansan ñaihon ham hu soda` na mas i talaya ha tuñgo`ña si Magoo ke guiya gi talaya. Un` buyada na man-yomug guihan seru kineni` mame. Hombre mapla` i lagua` talaya ya ti in` ripara ni ñahlalañgña. Pindehoti!

Hu faisen si bihahu haf` na un` primaña echuñg te` lañg guieñgña. “Ha apunta i paluma ni flecha ya tiha repara na ha pega i diñga` gi guieñgña.” Dios mihu!

Mana`e amiguhu Magoo katdon to`lañg guaka. Ilegña, “Pagu a`tautau este mage”. Ma-abirigua haf` kumeke ilegña. Era dispues de ha kanu` i katdu ya ha chogue che`chu` kasamientu patgon para u huyuñg. Asaina!

Guaha un` atuñgo`hu sessu `an kumuentos kulan mohon sabiun karisu. Mafaisen dispues kau i fino`ña hinassoña pat hiniñgogña.

gery. One was in the process of workup for a blood clot. I had clinic patients that I had not yet seen in follow-up that I had also operated on. I hadn’t even so much as removed their post-operative dressings. One was a complex three-hour elbow fusion that Dr. LaVene, the general surgeon, said was one of the most technically challenging he had ever witnessed.

I walked into Godfather’s Restaurant where the owner knew all about this and the contents of that supposedly confidential letter. Even if I returned home to practice, I would have to verify that my CHC privileges were abruptly terminated and I would have to disclose the reasons why. I am not at liberty to try and hide this. All credentialing applications ask the same questions that would uncover these false accusations, and since I am licensed in five states this would mean five trips for psychiatric evaluations, amounting to tens of thousands of my dollars, a permanently scarred reputation, questioned integrity and a licensing paper trail that would lead back to the CHC CEO’s office where it was sure that I probably would never get a job again anywhere—all because I wanted to help some fellow Americans on some remote Pacific islands. That means those people that I could help and had no one else would have no one. The ramifications to all of those years of training and experience were huge. It meant that the money I send home to my 84-year-old mother would stop. Twenty-eight years of experience, six degrees...all wasted.

for students declined 20 percent, and the Perkins Loan Program declined 54 percent. These cuts might not be so remarkable if not for the concurrent expansion of other federal student aid programs. Pell Grants grew 118 percent, subsidized student loans grew 12 percent and unsubsidized loans grew 156 percent. All in all, federal student aid grew 105 percent.

This disparity is actually getting worse in some ways. Students from higher-income families receive a significantly larger share of unsubsidized student loans (the largest federal student aid expenditure) and PLUS loans (the program that has grown the most in the past decade).

Congress’ student aid priority should be to increase funding that colleges receive for the FSEOG program. Poor students should be eligible for larger grant awards to make it easier for them to complete college. Bolstering this long-standing program will not require significantly more bureaucracy and probably would not require much more spending. In 2013, the FSEOG program constituted a paltry 1.6 percent of all spending on federal student aid grants. (The also shortchanged Perkins Loan Program constituted only 0.8 percent of all federal loan spending.)

Finally, Congress should reconsider the huge investment it makes in tuition tax breaks, a program that far and away most benefits the upper middle class. Education policy analyst Stephen Burd has shown that from 2007 to 2009, low- and middle-income families saw their share of benefits from these tax credits drop dramatically.

Since then, Obama’s American Opportunity Tax Credit has only

Sige pa`gu fumofu ha defenden maisague`. Dios na grasia!

Matto i mediku para u riseta un` malañgu-ta gi Straub Hospital giya Hawaii. Mientras tantos finaisen, “Does this hurt?” Tiha o`oppe.

Finaisen ni inteprete kau puti. Ilegña na huñgan. Mafaisen haf` na ti ha o`oppe i mediku. “Ke sa` ti ilegña pain”. Esu na chinacha` palabra!

Hu li`e tropan abeha ma-mueba chemchum niha kasse tres pe kuatdrau dinañkuloña. `Nai man-gupu kulan mohon sen ñahlalañg mabatatañga deste un` troñku esta i otro lugat.

Ti hu li`e manu `nai mapega chemchum niha. Dispues hu rikonose hagas lugat chomchum gi troñkun sosge, gasgagas. Ti listuyu` kumuestiona haf` linagnos i Saina.

Man-asoda` famaguon prefektu yan bastadu gi fina` gupot Noche Buena. Sige machalegua` haye lehitimu yan ti lehitimu. Ilegña i mas patgon na bastadu, “Tata-hu ayu i matatachoñg guihe guatu, yan miyu pat ti yan miyu”. Ha umentaye na todü uma-onra si tatan niha dehemunos kau haf` rayamu.

Ilegña si Magoo na man-resibegue` esta kattaña para i lañget. Era ha huñgog na taya` esta ginen Marianas para umasede guihe hulu`. Mafaisen haf` taimanu na ha resibe kattaña. Ilegña na ma-email-gue`. Sinaulag as Lia, “Pues man-dage hau sa` taya computer trabiha guihe hulu`, demoñu!” Dios mihu!

Ti gofha`an, potput nubladu i tanu`. Hu huhuñgog gi chagu` ña-ñgon na guinaifen mañglu sige ha dulalag homhum mapagahes gi ge`lagu. I pajaru sige lokue` mañganta. I tautau duru preparasion senan familia gi lemlem tautau. U machom i atdau gi ti apmam. Finagpu` otro dia giya paraisu.

Ilegña un` finu` atpahon: Muñga mapesa ha`animu gi haf` un` kusecha pa`gu ke i simiya ni un` tanom”. Kau un` tanom tatte para otro biahe? Preparasion famaguonta!

So, do I have a right to be disgruntled at this point? Heck, no, I was pissed! With my everlasting gratitude, the board of trustees chairman Jack Torres invited me to plead my case. During this time the board requested the CEO and DMA to present to them any and all facts on the nature of my termination and why the hospital by-laws were not adhered to with regard to due process. They heard non-verifiable excuses like, “We can’t tell you because we have to protect Dr. Walker’s confidentiality rights too,” I waived them. Then there was the myriad of unsupported statements that when attempts were made to verify them, were found to be completely fabricated. You could not believe how much my sense of morality was punched in the stomach. Would you not think more of a director of Medical Affairs and a hospital chief executive officer?

I must add one more kick-in-the-pants on my way out the door: that patient with the breast mass...my final check was shorted the equivalent amount of operating room minutes (remember it was performed in the clinic) amounting to \$1,500, which was deducted from my last payment without my authorization

A great idea is developed over time. I shared you my story because I wanted to show you what it is like when unchecked power by non-elected officials is allowed to be held absolutely and soon here I will suggest the fixes and the health care reform needed.

*To be continued tomorrow.*

exacerbated the disparity. It offers up to \$2,500 in tax credits not just for tuition and fees, but also books, supplies and equipment. According to Burd’s analysis, the wealthiest families eligible—those making \$100,000 to \$180,000—reaped the largest amount and share of the American Opportunity Tax Credit benefits when it was introduced in 2009.

Furthermore, families making above \$75,000 were more than twice as likely as the families making less than \$25,000 to receive any benefit at all. The federal government’s tuition tax credits and breaks, which economists estimate cost the government \$55 billion from 2000 to 2014, amount to an unfair subsidy for the upper middle class. If Congress is interested in directing student aid to the families that most need it, it should either end these tax breaks or restrict eligibility to poor and lower-middle-class families.

Federal support for higher education is vital for those seeking to overcome socioeconomic disadvantages. Simply sending more students to community colleges, which exhibit the lowest completion rates of any higher-education sector, isn’t sufficient. As the president, Congress and the Department of Education consider their budget priorities for the next few years, they must expand their thinking on how to invest in the neediest students.


*Judah Bellin researches higher-education policy at the Manhattan Institute and is associate editor of the Manhattan Institute’s Mind-ing the Campus. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.*



# The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian


TODAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲88° ▼76°


FRIDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲88° ▼77°


SATURDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°


SUNDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°

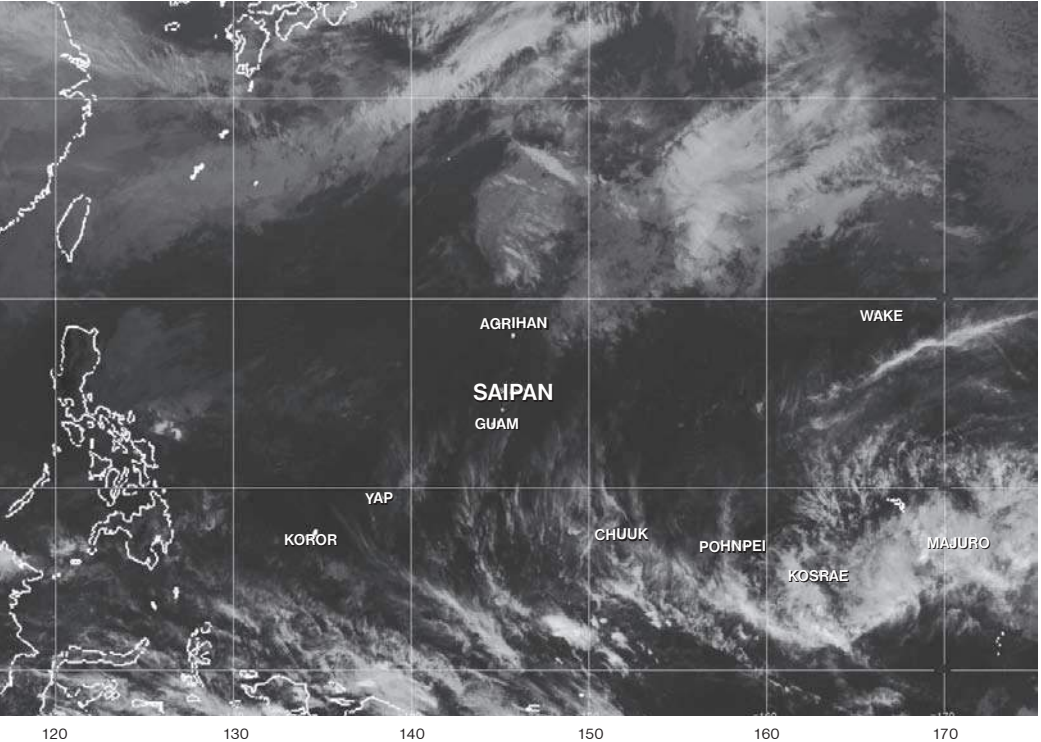
MONDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front cuts southwestward from 25N135E to beyond 130E at 24N. Low clouds and patchy rain are along and northwest of the front to well beyond 25N. An upper-level trough is causing cloudiness and scattered showers just northeast of the Mariana Islands along and up to 400 miles northwest of a line from 17N148E to 25N165E. An old shear line reaches southwestward from south of Midway through 22N180E passing across Wake Island at 19N167E and tapering off near 18N160E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 200 miles northwest of the shear line. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward across 3N130E to end at a tropical disturbance centered near Tarawa Atoll at 1N171E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Kosrae and the Marshall Islands are within 150 miles of a line from 3N162E to near Majuro at 7N172E to beyond the date line at 5N180E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Showers	▲84	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲83	▼79

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼65
Beijing	Sunny	▲36	▼18
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼59
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼68
London	Showers	▲50	▼37
Los Angeles	Showers	▲68	▼52
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼69
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼54
Miami	Showers	▲76	▼53
New York	Snow	▲29	▼27
Osaka	Showers	▲55	▼36
Paris	Showers	▲49	▼36
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼25
Rome	Sunny	▲56	▼37
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼44
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼54
Seoul	Sunny	▲33	▼14
Tokyo	Rain	▲61	▼40
Washington, DC	Ice	▲38	▼32



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
4:14 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
8:57 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
2:42 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
10:23 Pm	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:15 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:15 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	1:33 AM	1:43 AM
Friday	2:22 AM	2:37 AM
Saturday	3:13 PM	3:29 AM
Sunday	4:03 PM	4:19 AM
Monday	4:53 PM	5:07 AM

### NEWS DESK

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily	OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
				UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
				UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
				UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

### STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						



Business

NYC economy lost \$200M from fizzled storm, transit shutdown

By COLLEEN LONG and  
MEGHAN BARR  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**NEW YORK** (AP)—New York City lost an estimated \$200 million in economic activity in the fizzled snowstorm and decision to shut down the transit system—a loss that wasn’t crippling overall but had the biggest impact on small businesses and hourly workers.

Consumers who would have otherwise bought cars or made other major purchases will likely do so a day or two later, said Adam Kamins, an economist with Moody’s Analytics, which came up with the preliminary loss estimate. He noted that many employees forced to stay home Tuesday were able to telecommute.

“For example, a holiday where people aren’t working would have a greater impact on the economic output than this storm,” Kamins said.

Evan Gold, senior vice president for Planalytics, a firm that advises companies on weather issues, estimated the economic

losses for the total Northeast, including New York, Philadelphia and Boston, at \$500 million.

“Now that does sound like a lot of money, but when you think about last year, where we had a polar vortex, several weeks of that, more population centers impacted as well as above-normal snowfall, last year’s overall economic impact is pegged at anywhere from \$15 billion to \$50 billion,” he said. “So in comparison, this is actually a relatively small event.”

In New York, small businesses and hourly workers who rely on tips, such as taxi drivers and restaurant workers, were keenly affected by the loss of work time.

Lenice Ferguson, a baker at Insomnia Cookies said the shop is usually open until about 3 a.m. making deliveries. The bakery closed at about 10 p.m. Monday.

“It’s a big deal, because I only work three nights out of the week,” the 26-year-old said. “My check is going to be short, and I have bills that I have to pay.”



AP  
A worker cleans air vents under a Long Island Rail Road schedule board, in New York's Pennsylvania Station, Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Record iPhone sales drive blowout quarter for Apple

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Apple had another blowout quarter thanks to its new plus-sized iPhones, which helped the company smash sales records for the holiday season. Apple said Tuesday that it sold 74.5 million iPhones during the three months that ended Dec. 31, beating analysts’ expectations for the latest models of Apple’s most popular gadget, introduced in September. The surge in iPhone sales drove the company’s total revenue to \$74.6 billion, up 30 percent from a year earlier. CEO Tim Cook said on a call with analysts that demand for the phones was “staggering,” and noted that results would have been even higher if not for the impact of the strong dollar on overseas sales. Net income rose 38 percent to \$18 billion, as Apple reported earnings of \$3.06 a share. Analysts surveyed by FactSet were expecting earnings of \$2.60 a share on revenue of \$67.39 billion.

Yahoo CEO heeds shareholders’ call to spin off Alibaba stake

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer is spinning off the company’s \$39 billion stake in China’s Alibaba Group Holding in a move that wards off a potential shareholder rebellion. The highly anticipated decision announced Tuesday will enable Yahoo to avoid paying billions of dollars in future taxes while intensifying the pressure on Mayer to prove she can rejuvenate one of the Internet’s oldest and best-known companies. A newly formed entity called SpinCo will inherit ownership of Yahoo’s 384 million Alibaba shares when the tax-free spinoff is completed toward the end of this year. Existing Yahoo shareholders will receive stock in SpinCo, which will be designated as a registered investment company. The breakup is an attempt to ensure most Spinco shareholders profiting from future sales of Alibaba stock will be taxed at a lower rate than Yahoo Inc. would have paid had it held on to the stake, said Mark Luscombe, principal federal tax analyst for Wolters Kluwer Tax & Accounting.

Subways, rail lines, bridges and tunnels were all closed Monday night. Residents were told to stay off the streets after 11 p.m. or face fines. Transportation reopened Tuesday morning after it

was clear the storm was a bust in New York City, with most areas getting about 8 inches instead of the predicted 2 feet.

Fausto Cabrera opened his Upper West Side barber shop

Tuesday morning but wasn’t expecting many customers.

“There was nobody here yesterday and today, just look,” he said, pointing to six empty barber chairs. “All I can do is wait.”

Mayor Bill de Blasio said economic loss was much less than it would have been had the storm hit in full force, and that taking precautions helped the city get back online faster.

Airlines begin digging out from storm in northeastern US

Lingering snow and subfreezing temperatures mean that travel delays in the Northeast will extend through Wednesday, even if the storm wasn’t as bad as expected.

Airlines have already cancelled more than 500 flights for Wednesday, according to FlightAware.com. But that’s a reprieve after 7,600 U.S. flights got scrubbed and another 3,200 ran late on Monday and Tuesday, mostly in the blizzard’s path.

New York was spared the

worst of the blizzard, but Boston was hit with more than two feet of snow. By Tuesday afternoon, airlines had already canceled one-fourth of the flights that would normally depart from Boston’s Logan Airport on Wednesday, and subfreezing temperatures will mean tedious de-icing of the planes that do take off.

United Airlines canceled all flights through Wednesday in Boston and other New England airports, said spokeswoman Mary Ryan. United operates

a hub with many connecting flights at Newark airport in New Jersey. Ryan said the airline planned limited arrivals there Tuesday night with a more complete schedule on Wednesday.

JetBlue Airways had already canceled 190 flights for Wednesday, mostly in Boston and elsewhere in New England. Spokesman Morgan Johnston said the airline would wait for roads and mass transit to be safe enough for customers and employees to reach the airports.

JetBlue planned to operate a few flights Tuesday night at New York’s Kennedy and LaGuardia airports and in Newark.

Delta Air Lines expected to fly a limited number of flights into Kennedy and LaGuardia on Tuesday night, then resume service throughout the Northeast beginning Wednesday morning, according to spokesman Morgan Durrant. He said the airline expected to run about 80 percent of its usual schedule on Wednesday.

Jobless-rate moves in 2014: Colorado best, Louisiana worst

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Colorado’s unemployment rate fell by a third. Louisiana’s jumped nearly a quarter.

Across the country, changes in unemployment rates varied from state to state in 2014, but collectively the numbers pointed to a year of substantial improvement: Jobless rates fell in 46 states, and everyone except Mississippi added jobs.

Even Louisiana’s gain masked some good news: The state added a healthy number of jobs—just not enough to keep up with population growth.

The broad improvement shown in Tuesday’s report from the Labor Department reflected a pickup in hiring across the country. Employers nationwide added nearly 3 million jobs last year, the most since 1999. The gains were driven by solid economic growth in spring and summer. During 2014, the national unemployment rate sank to 5.6 percent from 6.7 percent.

In Colorado, which enjoyed the biggest proportional drop in unemployment, healthy hiring lowered its rate to 4

percent from 6.2 percent. Colorado’s employers added 62,300 jobs, boosting its payrolls 2.6 percent, the nation’s 10th best job gain.

Nathan Kelley, an economist at Moody’s Analytics, said Colorado is enjoying an influx of highly educated young people, many of whom are taking jobs at technology-oriented startups and in the aerospace industry. About 58 percent of Boulder’s residents over age 25 has a college degree, the highest such proportion in the country.

“People are essentially flooding into this region,” he said.

Greater hiring in the state has ranged across most industries, the government said, from manufacturing, construction and professional services to restaurants and hotels.

Other states with sizable drops in unemployment rates last year were: Idaho, whose rate fell to 3.7 percent from 5.6 percent; Ohio, where it fell to 4.8 percent from 7.1 percent; and Illinois, where it dropped to 6.2 percent from 8.9 percent.

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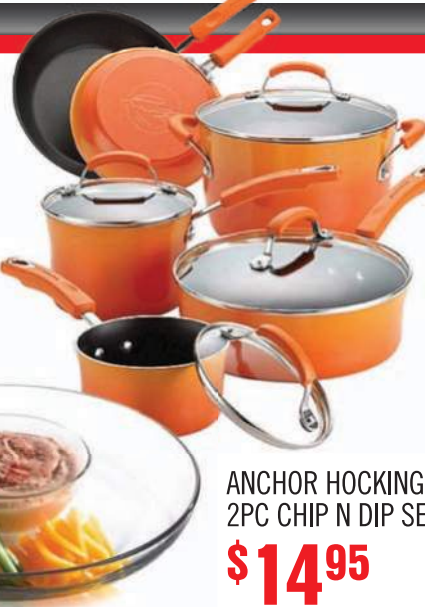
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# Nation

## ‘Wicked storm’: Blizzard drops 2 feet of snow on New England

**BOSTON** (AP)—Its winds howling at more than 70 mph, the Blizzard of 2015 slammed Boston and surrounding parts of New England on Tuesday with none of the mercy it unexpectedly showed New York City, piling up more than 2 feet of snow.

The storm punched out a 40-to-50-foot section of a seawall in Marshfield, Massachusetts, badly damaging a vacant home. In Newport, Rhode Island, it toppled a 110-foot replica of a Revolutionary War sailing vessel in dry dock, breaking its mast and puncturing its hull.

The blizzard's force and relentlessness stunned even winter-hardened New Englanders.

"It's a wicked storm," Jeff Russell said as he fought a mounting snowdrift threatening to cover a window at his home in Scarborough, Maine.

The snow in New England began Monday evening and continued most of Tuesday. A blizzard warning for Boston ended Tuesday evening as the snow tapered off, but one remained in effect for the south coast, Cape Cod and nearby islands.

The area also was dealing



AP  
A young girl plays with a shovel following an overnight snowstorm, Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015, in Jersey City, N.J.

with bitter cold: The low in Boston on Wednesday is expected to be 10 degrees, with wind chill minus 5, and forecasters said it will not get above freezing for

the next week or so.

The Philadelphia-to-Boston corridor of more than 35 million people had braced for a paralyzing blast Monday evening and

into Tuesday after forecasters warned of a storm of potentially historic proportions.

The weather lived up to its billing in New England and on

New York's Long Island, which also got clobbered.

But in the New York City area, the snowfall wasn't all that bad, falling short of a foot. By Tuesday morning, buses and subways were starting to run again, and driving bans there and in New Jersey had been lifted.

The glancing blow left forecasters apologizing and politicians defending their near-total shutdown on travel. Some commuters grumbled, but others sounded a better-safe-than-sorry note and even expressed sympathy for the weatherman.

"I think it's like the situation with Ebola: If you over-cover, people are ready and prepared, rather than not giving it the attention it needs," said Brandon Bhajan, a New

York security guard.

National Weather Service director Louis Uccellini said his agency should have done a better job of communicating the uncertainty in its forecast. But he also said the storm may in fact prove to be one of the biggest ever in some parts of Massachusetts.

Around New England, snowplows struggled to keep up, and Boston police drove several dozen doctors and nurses to work at hospitals. Snow blanketed Boston Common, where the Redcoats drilled during the Revolution, and drifts piled up against Faneuil Hall, where Samuel Adams and the Sons of Liberty stoked the fires of rebellion.

Nearly 21 inches of snow coated Boston's Logan Airport by evening, while nearby Framingham had 2 1/2 feet and Worcester 26 inches. Lunenburg reported 33 inches.

Providence, Rhode Island, had well over a foot of snow. Sixteen inches had piled up in Portland, Maine, and 23 inches in Waterford, Connecticut. Montauk, on the eastern end of Long Island, got about 2 feet.

"It feels like a hurricane with snow," said Maureen Keller, who works at an oceanfront resort in Montauk.

At least 30,000 homes and businesses were without power in the Boston-Cape Cod area, including the entire island of Nantucket.

A 78 mph wind gust was reported on Nantucket, and a 72 mph one on Martha's Vineyard.

"It felt like sand hitting you in the face," Bob Paglia said after walking his dog in Whitman, a small town about 20 miles south of Boston.

## Jury convicts 2 ex-Vanderbilt players of raping woman

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—A jury convicted two ex-Vanderbilt football players on Tuesday of raping a former student, rejecting claims that they were too drunk to know what they were doing and that a college culture of binge drinking and promiscuous sex should be blamed for the attack.

The jury deliberated for three hours before announcing that Brandon Vandenburg and Cory Batey were guilty of aggravated rape and aggravated sexual battery.

Batey was stoic, staring ahead and Vandenburg shook his head "no," appearing stunned. His fa-

ther had an outburst and abruptly left the courtroom.

The victim, a 21-year-old neuroscience and economics major at the time of the June 2013 attack, cried as each guilty verdict was announced. The men face decades in prison when they are sentenced March 6.

The jury heard two weeks of dramatic testimony from a parade of witnesses, including police, former and current Vanderbilt students and the woman, who said she didn't remember what happened that night, only that she woke up in a strange dorm room. They also saw cellphone images from the night of the attack that

Vandenburg sent to his friends as it was happening.

Despite the photos and video, and witnesses seeing the woman unconscious and at least partially naked in a dorm hallway, no one reported it.

The victim said in a statement she was hopeful the publicity from the case would lead to a discussion of how to end sexual violence on college campuses. In Nashville, where the prestigious private university is located, hundreds of college officials from across the state were meeting this week to discuss exactly that.

"Finally, I want to remind

other victims of sexual violence: You are not alone. You are not to blame," she said.

Vandenburg and Batey were on trial together, but represented by different attorneys. Attorneys for Vandenburg, who had been seeing the woman, said he did not assault her.

Testimony showed Vandenburg passed out condoms to the other players, slapped her buttocks and said he couldn't have sex with the woman because he was high on cocaine.

Batey raped the woman and urinated on her, prosecutors said. His attorneys argued the images didn't show that.

## Utah parents who killed selves, children feared apocalypse

By **LINDSAY WHITEHURST**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SPRINGVILLE, Utah** (AP)—A Utah couple and their three children who were found dead in their home last fall overdosed on drugs after the parents told friends and family they were worried about the apocalypse, authorities said Tuesday.

Police also found old letters written by the mother to a Utah inmate serving time for killing family members in the name of God, slayings chronicled in the 2003 Jon Krakauer book "Under the Banner of Heaven."

Benjamin and Kristi Strack and three of their four children—ages 11, 12 and 14—were found dead in September in a locked bedroom of their Springville home. All five were in a bed,

with the kids tucked into the covers around their parents.

At a news conference Tuesday, Springville Police Chief J. Scott Finlayson said investigators have concluded their probe and determined the family members died from drug toxicity from either methadone, heroin or a combination of drugs, including those found in cold medicine.

Authorities determined the parents committed suicide. The younger two children's deaths were ruled homicides, although Finlayson said there were no signs of a struggle.

The manner of death for the 14-year-old, Benson Strack, was undetermined.

Police said Benson wrote a goodbye letter, leaving some of his belongings to his best friend. The only other recent writing

the family left behind was a notebook containing handwritten to-do lists about feeding the pets and other chores.

Finlayson said interviews with people who knew the Stracks indicated the parents were worried about evil in the world and wanted to escape from "impending doom."

"There seemed to be a concern about a pending apocalypse that the parents bought into," Finlayson said. "While some friends thought that suicide may have been, or could have been, included in their plans, others believed they were going to move somewhere and live off the grid."

During their investigation, police found years-old letters between Kristi Strack and Dan Lafferty, who is serving a life

sentence after being convicted of committing a double-murder with his brother Ron.

"Under the Banner of Heaven" is about members of an offshoot of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, told through the true story of the Laffertys' crimes. The two killed their brother's wife and 15-month old daughter.

Ron Lafferty was condemned to death for the July 1984 slayings of his sister-in-law, Brenda Lafferty, and her baby in American Fork. He claimed to have had a religious revelation sanctioning the slayings because of the victim's resistance to his beliefs in polygamy.

Investigators said Kristi Strack was deeply interested in the case and struck up a friendship with Dan Lafferty.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Dog missing 5 months rescued in NYC amid snowstorm

**NEW YORK** (AP)—A whippet named Burt that vanished on the streets of New York City five months ago has finally made it home. The Fire Department of New York said Burt's incredible journey came to end early Tuesday at the height of the winter storm when he was rescued at a training facility on Randall's Island. "As soon as he saw his owner, the dog started wagging his tail, licking her," said David Kelly, a firefighter who reunited the pair. In a statement, dog owner Lauren Piccolo thanked the FDNY, adding, "Burt is resting at home and is expected to make a full recovery."

#### Ga. man executed for killing fellow inmate

**ATLANTA** (AP)—Georgia on Tuesday executed a man who killed a fellow inmate despite arguments from his lawyers that his execution was prohibited by the Constitution because he was intellectually disabled. Warren Lee Hill was put to death by an injection of pentobarbital at the state prison in Jackson. The 54-year-old was pronounced dead at 7:55 p.m. He declined to make a final statement but did accept an offer to have a prayer read over him by a clergy member. After reading the execution order, the warden left the room at 7:42 p.m. Records from previous executions show that the drug generally begins to flow within a minute or two of the warden leaving the room. Hill kept his head raised, looking out at the witnesses, for a couple of minutes and then laid back and took a few deep breaths before becoming still.



# Asia

## Rebel killings of 44 commandos test PH peace deal

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Philippine officials asked lawmakers Tuesday not to withdraw their support from a new government peace deal with the country's largest Muslim rebel group after some insurgents were involved in a clash that killed 44 anti-terror police commandos.

The government's biggest single-day combat loss in recent memory shocked many and prompted at least two senators to withdraw their backing for a bill that would create a new Muslim autonomous region in the restive south under a peace deal signed last March. Many more lawmakers and influential Roman Catholic bishops defended the deal.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines condemned the violence, but said it "cannot side with those who call for the discontinuance of peace talks," said Archbishop Socrates Villegas, who heads the group.

President Benigno Aquino III's spokesman, Herminio Coloma, warned that abandoning peace efforts could usher in the return of an "old order characterized by warlordism, lawlessness, misuse of public funds and the near-total breakdown of governance."

Aquino's peace talks with the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic



Philippine Interior and Local Government Secretary Mar Roxas, left, and Philippine National Police Deputy Director General Leonardo Espinal, right, listen to a reporter's questions during a news conference on Sunday's killing of at least 44 anti-terror commandos in the southern Philippines, Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015 in Manila, Philippines. AP

last four years. The decades-old Muslim separatist insurrection has left about 150,000 dead and blocked progress in the country's most destitute regions.

The respite was shattered early Sunday when police commandos barged into a remote marshland area off southern Mamasapano town in Maguindanao province to hunt down Malaysian Zulkifli bin Hir, or Marwan, one of Southeast Asia's most-wanted terror suspects, and a top Filipino terror suspect, Abdul Basit Usman.

Interior Secretary Mar Roxas said Marwan may have been killed in the raid but Usman escaped. Efforts to verify Marwan's death were underway.

As the commandos withdrew, they came under fire from hard-line Muslim militants called the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters. Some of the policemen maneuvered away in the dark and became entangled in a "misencounter" with heavily armed Muslim rebels belonging to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, according to Roxas.

When the fierce fighting ended, 44 commandos were dead and 12 others were wounded, national police Deputy Director General Leonardo Espinal said. Some Muslim rebels said as many as 56 of the elite policemen died in the daylong clashes, which left about a dozen insurgents dead.

## Japan's Abe calls latest hostage deadline 'despicable'

**TOKYO (AP)**—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed outrage and demanded Wednesday that Islamic State extremists release a Japanese journalist, as secret talks in Jordan sought the release of the Japanese and a Jordanian pilot also being held hostage.

The effort to free Japanese freelance journalist Kenji Goto and Jordanian Lt. Mu'ath al-Kaseasbeh gained urgency with the release of an apparent ultimatum late Tuesday from the Islamic State group.

**TOKYO (AP)**—The mother of a Japanese hostage held by Islamic State extremists has appealed publicly to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to save her son after his captors issued what they said was a final death threat.

**Junko Ishido, mother of journalist Kenji Goto, read to reporters her plea to Abe to "Please save Kenji," which she said she sent earlier Wednesday.**

**She begged Abe to work with the Jordanian government to try to save Goto, saying "Kenji has only a little time left."**

In the message, the extremists say the two hostages will be killed within 24 hours—late Wednesday night Japan time—unless Jordan frees Sajida al-Rishawi, an Iraqi woman sentenced to death in Jordan

for her involvement in a 2005 terrorist attack on a hotel that killed 60 people.

"This was an extremely despicable act and we feel strong indignation. We strongly condemn that," Abe said. "While this is a tough situation, we remain unchanged in our stance of seeking help from the Jordanian government in securing the early release of Mr. Goto."

In Jordan, the pilot's father, Safi al-Kaseasbeh, beseeched the government "to meet the demands" of the Islamic State group.

"All people must know, from the head of the regime to everybody else, that the safety of Mu'ath means the stability of Jordan, and the death of Mu'ath

means chaos in Jordan," he told The Associated Press.

About 200 of the pilot's relatives protested outside the prime minister's office in the Jordanian capital of Amman, chanting anti-government slogans and urging that it meet the captors' demands.

A member of Jordan's parliament said the country was in indirect talks with the militants to secure the hostages' release. Basam Al-Manasseer, chairman of the foreign affairs committee, told Bloomberg News the negotiations are taking place through religious and tribal leaders in Iraq, adding that Jordan and Japan won't negotiate directly with IS and won't free al-Rishawi in exchange for Goto only.

Liberation Front, along with a cease-fire, have virtually ended major fighting in the south in the

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Indonesian military halts recovery efforts for AirAsia plane

**PANGKALAN BUN, Indonesia (AP)**—Indonesia's military has halted its recovery efforts for the crashed AirAsia plane, including attempts to locate more bodies and raise the fuselage from the Java Sea, an official said Tuesday. The Indonesian Search and Rescue Agency, however, said it would continue looking for victims with its own ships and helicopters. Rear Adm. Widodo, head of the military's search and rescue task force, said the decision to withdraw was made after four days of unsuccessful attempts to raise the fuselage. He said three warships and two military helicopters were being removed. He apologized to the families of the victims for being unable to retrieve all the bodies. A total of 70 bodies have been recovered from AirAsia Flight 8501, which crashed Dec. 28 with 162 people on board while flying from Surabaya, Indonesia's second largest city, to Singapore.

#### PH rejects US Marine's appeal to drop murder case

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—The Philippines on Tuesday rejected an appeal by a U.S.

Marine that it drop a murder case against him in the death of a transgender Filipino woman last year. A Department of Justice panel said evidence from prosecutors against Pfc. Joseph Scott Pemberton showed that he killed Jennifer Laude after picking her up in a bar in Olongapo city in October. Police said Laude, formerly known as Jeffrey, was found dead with her head inside a toilet bowl in a hotel minutes after Pemberton left the room.

#### Pakistan military says its airstrikes kill 76 militants

**ISLAMABAD (AP)**—Pakistani military jets struck suspected militant hideouts Tuesday near the Afghan border, killing 76 militants, the army said. Two rounds of airstrikes targeted the suspected militants in the Datta Khel area of North Waziristan, which has long been a safe haven for local and foreign extremists carrying out attacks on both sides of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. Some foreigners were among those killed while six militant hideouts, an ammunition dump and seven explosives-laden vehicles also were destroyed in the strikes, Pakistani army said in statement.

## India nuke deals still thorny for US despite 'breakthrough'

**NEW DELHI (AP)**—India and America's declaration of a breakthrough in contentious nuclear energy cooperation has been met with a lukewarm response from industry and analysts. Few expect the potentially lucrative Indian market to suddenly become less complicated for U.S. nuclear companies.

President Barack Obama's three-day visit to New Delhi raised hopes for concrete plans to tackle India's fossil fuel dependency and to resolve a four-

year standoff over liability that prevented U.S. and Japanese nuclear energy development on Indian soil. Instead, there were vague commitments and public displays of chumminess between Obama and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The two leaders said they agreed to advance a 2008 civil nuclear deal long stalled by concerns about India's reluctance to allow U.S. tracking of fissile material. It has also been held up by American concerns with an In-

dian law that makes U.S. nuclear suppliers, not operators of nuclear plants, liable for accidents.

Since India passed the liability law in 2010, only government-backed nuclear firms in Russia and France have discussed entering India's market, annoying Washington which brokered India's special status as a nuclear nation despite its refusal to sign the global treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The apparent U.S.-India breakthrough this week was in narrow-

ing differences on the liability issue. U.S. Ambassador Richard Verma said "it's up to the companies what to do" after India gave an assurance the liability law would be interpreted consistent with international understanding.

If anything substantive was agreed, "it's very unclear," said Paris-based energy and nuclear policy consultant Mycle Schneider. "I don't think there's enough information out there that makes it possible to make a coherent statement."



# World

## Gunmen storm Libya hotel, killing American, 9 others

**TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)**—In the latest sign of Libya's descent into chaos, gunmen stormed a luxury hotel used by diplomats and businessmen in the capital on Tuesday, killing 10 people, including an American, a French citizen and three people from Asia.

Two attackers were killed following an hourslong standoff that included a car bomb that exploded in the parking lot of the seaside Corinthia Hotel. It was unclear if other gunmen were involved in the attack, which also killed five Libyan guards.

In Twitter posts and a statement on social media, a Tripoli affiliate of the Islamic State group was said to be behind the attack, but there was little evidence to back up the claims in a country that has been awash

in armed extremist groups who would be equally suspect.

The SITE intelligence group reported that the two dead gunmen were identified online as sympathizers of IS and said the militants said the hotel was targeted because it houses diplomatic missions and "crusader" security companies. However, The Associated Press was unable to independently confirm the claims, which didn't conform with the group's earlier postings from Libya.

Militants claiming the attack on behalf of a group called the Islamic State of the Tripoli Province posted a brief video showing burned cars in the hotel's parking lot and said it was to avenge the 2013 abduction by American commandos of a Libyan al-Qaida operative, Nazih

Abdul-Hamed al-Ruqai, also known as Abu Anas al-Libi. Al-Ruqai died earlier this month in a New York hospital of complications from liver surgery while awaiting trial for the 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

The assault highlights the growing threat from militant groups that operate with near impunity in a country torn between rival governments since the 2011 toppling and killing of dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

Since Gadhafi's ouster, the country has been torn among competing militias and tribes vying for power. Libya's post-Gadhafi transition has collapsed, with two rival governments and parliaments—each backed by different militias—ruling in the country's eastern

and western regions.

Amid the bloody political rivalry, multiple armed groups have emerged, including radical Islamist militias who have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State, including one based in the eastern city of Derna, a stronghold of radical groups, as well as

regional militias and groups loyal to the former regime.

Tripoli, which has been controlled by Islamist militiamen mostly from the western city of Misrata since the summer, has been hit with a series of car bombs and shootings. The internationally recognized government has been

forced to relocate to the country's east, where a former general has waged an offensive against Islamist militias, including Ansar al-Shariah, blamed for the 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi that left the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans dead.



In this image made from video posted by a Libyan blogger, the Corinthia Hotel is seen under attack in Tripoli, Libya, Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015.



President Barack Obama meets with the new Saudi Arabian King Salman bin Abdul Aziz, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015.

**RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)**—In a show of solidarity with Saudi Arabia, President Barack Obama led a parade of American dignitaries to the ultraconservative desert kingdom Tuesday to pay respects after King Abdullah's death and take measure of the new monarch.

Obama's presence here underscored the key role Saudi Arabia plays in U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East and highlighted Washington's willingness to put national security priorities ahead of concerns about human rights issues. Hours before arriving in Riyadh, Obama spoke at length about the importance of women's rights during an address in India, setting up a jarring contrast with his warm embrace of Saudi Arabia, a country where there are strict limits on women's freedom.

Obama, like his recent prede-

cessors, defended his willingness to forge close ties with the kingdom despite its array of human rights issues.

"Sometimes we need to balance our need to speak to them about human rights issues with immediate concerns we have in terms of counterterrorism or dealing with regional stability," Obama said in an interview with CNN.

First lady Michelle Obama accompanied the president during his four-hour visit to Riyadh. She dressed conservatively in black pants and a long jacket, but did not cover her head, which is often standard for Western women visiting the kingdom but forbidden for Saudi women. Some members of the all-male Saudi delegation shook her hand as they greeted the Obamas, while others simply nodded to her as they passed by.

Earlier Tuesday, Obama told an audience of young people in New Delhi that every woman should "be safe and be treated with the respect and dignity that she deserves."

A senior administration official said Obama raised the issue of human rights broadly in his discussions with the king, but did not tackle specific matters, including the case of a Saudi blogger who was convicted of insulting Islam and sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes.

The president cut short his trip to India to visit Saudi Arabia after 90-year-old Abdullah's death Friday. The schedule shift highlighted the degree to which the Middle East still has sway over Obama, even as he seeks to refocus U.S. foreign policy on places like India and the Asia-Pacific.

## Mexico: Investigation shows that all 43 students are dead

**MEXICO CITY (AP)**—Investigators are now certain that 43 college students missing since September were killed and incinerated after they were seized by police in southern Guerrero state, the Mexican attorney general said Tuesday.

It was the first time Jesus Murillo Karam said definitely that all were dead, even though Mexican authorities have DNA identification for only one student and a declaration from a laboratory in Innsbruck, Austria, that it appears impossible to identify the others.

The attorney general cited confessions and forensic evidence from an area near a garbage dump where the Sept. 26 crime occurred that showed

the fuel and temperature of the fire were sufficient to turn 43 bodies into ashes.

"The evidence allows us to determine that the students were kidnapped, killed, burned and thrown into the river," Murillo Karam said in a press conference that included a video reconstruction of the mass slaying and of the investigation into the case.

He added that "there is not a single shred of evidence that the army intervened ... not a single shred of evidence of the participation of the army," as relatives of the victims have claimed.

Murillo Karam's explanation seemed unlikely to quell the controversy and doubts about the case, in which the federal

government has been criticized for acting slowly and callously. Thousands of people demonstrated in Mexico City Monday night, demanding the students be returned alive.

"They pretty much gave the same story as they had given two months ago. There are not many additional details," said analyst Alejandro Hope. "They are searching for closure but I'm not sure they're going to get it."

The attorney general has come under attack from many quarters, including the students' relatives and fire experts, who say the government's version of what happened is implausible. Family members are still searching in hopes of finding the students alive.

## On Auschwitz anniversary, leader warns Jews again targets

**BRZEZINKA, Poland (AP)**—A Jewish leader stood before 300 survivors of the Nazis' most notorious death camp on Tuesday and asked world leaders to prevent another Auschwitz, warning of a rise of anti-Semitism that has made many Jews fearful of walking the streets, and is causing many to flee Europe.

Ronald Lauder, the president of the World Jewish Congress, made his bleak assessment on the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, speaking next to the gate and the railroad tracks that marked the last journey for more than a million people murdered at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

He said his speech was shaped by the recent terrorist attacks in France that targeted

Jews and newspaper satirists.

"For a time, we thought that the hatred of Jews had finally been eradicated. But slowly the demonization of Jews started to come back," Lauder said. "Once again, young Jewish boys are afraid to wear yarmulkes on the streets of Paris and Budapest and London. Once again, Jewish businesses are targeted. And once again, Jewish families are fleeing Europe."

The recent attack in Paris, in which four Jews were killed in a kosher supermarket, is not the first deadly attack on Jews in recent years. Last May a shooting killed four people at the Jewish Museum in Brussels and in 2012 a rabbi and three children were murdered in the French city of Toulouse.

Europe also saw a spasm of anti-Semitism last summer during the war in Gaza, with protests in Paris turning violent and other hostility across the continent.

"This vilification of Israel, the only Jewish state on earth, quickly became an opportunity to attack Jews," Lauder said. "Much of this came from the Middle East, but it has found fertile ground throughout the world."

One Holocaust survivor, Roman Kent, became emotional as he issued a plea to world leaders to remember the atrocities and fight for tolerance.

"We do not want our past to be our children's future," the 85-year-old said to applause, fighting back tears and repeating those words a second time.



Environment

As waters acidify, Maine looks to Pacific Northwest for help

By CHRIS ADAMS  
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

**WALPOLE, Maine**—In the icy waters of midcoast Maine, Bill Mook has his eyes on his oysters—and how the waters they need to survive are gradually, but clearly, changing.

Down the coast near Portland, the issue is clams and the mud flats that have become inhospitable to their survival.

Farther south still, near Cape Cod in Massachusetts, the worry is so-called “sea butterflies,” tiny marine snails that live low on the food chain and are—like the oysters and clams—threatened by a process known as “ocean acidification.”

“We’re acidifying the oceans,” said Mark Green, a professor of environmental science at Saint Joseph’s College in Maine. “We don’t know exactly what’s going to survive and what’s not, but there will be extinctions.”

Ocean acidification is sometimes referred to as “the other carbon dioxide problem,” and it’s exactly what the name implies: the gradual increase of acid in the world’s waters. It’s fueled by the burning of fossil fuels and the massive amounts of carbon that releases. A good chunk of that is absorbed by the world’s oceans, making the water more acidic.

Additional acid makes it hard for some species to develop the shells they need to survive. And that’s instilled fear in government and fisheries leaders



Oysters in the Mook Sea Farm hatchery in Walpole, Maine, on Jan. 7, 2015. The farm’s owner, Bill Mook, has studied the impact of ocean acidification on his operation and helped develop a state plan for combating the problem.

around the country.

In Washington state and the Pacific Northwest, the issue hit home between 2005 and 2009, when acidified conditions killed billions of oyster larvae at two of the main hatcheries that provide Pacific oysters to growers. Hatcheries scrambled to boost the monitoring of ocean chemistry and to adapt growing methods to avoid particular acidic waters.

The Natural Resources De-

fense Council, an environmental advocacy group, points to other hotspots: in the Gulf of Mexico, coastal California, Alaska, Maine, North Carolina and the Chesapeake Bay region, all of which have important seafood industries; and in Florida and Hawaii, which have coral reefs—and associated tourism—to protect.

But while carbon-fueled climate change is a hot issue

politically, its sibling—ocean acidification—has escaped much public notice except in the affected regions.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office noted in a September report that the “cur-

rent rate of acidification is believed to be faster than at any point in at least the last 20 million years.” But, it added, the federal government hasn’t done as much as it could have to implement a 2009 law to respond

to the potential crisis, such as developing adaptation strategies.

Here in Maine—where lobster is king and oysters, clams, eels, scallops and other species round out a thriving seafood industry—members of the state commission decided they couldn’t wait for the federal government to act.

“Perhaps the most alarming of the commission’s findings is how much we do not know about ocean acidification and how it will affect Maine’s commercially important species, including the iconic lobster,” a state commission on the issue recently wrote. It said actions “can and must be taken to understand, prevent, reduce and mitigate the negative impacts” of the phenomenon, and noted that there are so-called “mud flats” in Casco Bay off Portland where juvenile soft-shell clams struggle to survive in acidified conditions.

“We’re really closely linked to the sea,” said Mook, who runs an elaborate oyster operation on the Damariscotta River and who served on the Maine commission. But, he added: “When you look at the science of what we know about lobsters and how they are going to be affected by ocean acidification, we essentially are clueless.”

‘Sea butterflies’ are part of effort to better understand changing oceans

By CHRIS ADAMS  
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

**WOODS HOLE, Mass.**—For Gareth Lawson, the tiny water creatures known as “sea butterflies” might offer insight into one of the biggest problems to confront the world’s oceans.

Lawson is a biologist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, a private nonprofit across the water from Martha’s Vineyard. Sea butterflies—formally known as pteropods (pronounced TARE-a-pods)—are tiny marine snails.

“No more than a few centimeters—many of them the size of a grain of sand,” said Lawson.

They’re vital to understanding the world’s changing oceans because they come equipped with thin, sometimes transparent shells that are susceptible to changing ocean chemistry. As waters become more acidic, the sea butterflies’ shells dissolve.

While the long-term impact on sea butterflies and the marine environment around them

is uncertain, what Lawson does know is that these lowly, delicate creatures play a big part in the food chain.

Pink salmon off the coast of Alaska, for example, get half their diet some years from sea butterflies.

“If they all dissolve away, what happens to the pink salmon?” he said. “That’s not clear.”

Lawson’s work is part of an ongoing effort by the National Science Foundation, a federal agency that sought five years ago to better understand ocean acidification.

David Garrison, a program director in the foundation’s Division of Ocean Sciences, said changing acid levels might affect organisms in the ocean “in ways we can’t appreciate.” The foundation had a five-year program, starting in 2010, that awarded about \$12 million a year for research into ocean acidification. Lawson’s work at Woods Hole was among the projects.

Among 22 grants announced last year:

■ Florida Atlantic University will study marine macroalgae and how their responses to changing ocean chemistry could affect coral reefs.

■ University of California, San Diego, will explore the links among offshore biogeochemistry, coral reef metabolism and acidification.

■ Pennsylvania State University will explore the response of tiny shelled organisms to ocean acidification during a warming period 56 million years ago.

■ Duke University and Georgia Institute of Technology researchers will explore how microbes in coastal ecosystems fare differently from those in the open ocean.

■ North Carolina State University researchers will study ocean acidification and coral reefs.

Of the projects announced in 2014, nine are by California researchers; two by North Carolina, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Florida; and one each by Hawaii, Oregon, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Bermuda.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†Michaela  
Ngechelel  
Michael

May 27, 1990 - January 14, 2015

Her Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts of Her:

Parents:

Ray and Catherine Haruo

Adopted by:

Grandparents: Mike Towai and Christiana Michael

Brothers:

Conner Haruo and Harold Haruo

Sister:

Raylynn Haruo

Cousins:

Cullen Michael, Lemerie Tatingal, Suranjini Tatingal, Jaymadee K. Ruluked, Sansannie Matsutaro, Trishell Basa, Tyshawyn Basa, Jeremy Moses, Justice Ngewakl, Leticia Ngewakl

Aunties:

Cerilla Michael, Mylanie Michael, Lucy Asako Ajifu, Princess Ngruos, Priscilla Pittman, Fidelia Matsutaro, Pauline Faustino, Dominica Sanchez, Bobbie Techur, Hosiana Blunt, Melody Blunt, Clarinda Besong, Elsie Ngewakl, Mariana San Nicolas, Carmen Selepeo, Elsie Etumai, Melissa Baulechong

Uncles:

Koichi Lemi, Joshua Tanaka, Noah Secharraimul, Johai Ruluked, Haines Asanuma, Peoris Besong, Brian Adelbai, Norman Worswick, Pete Lemei, Kloulubak Towai, Kinny Kadiasang, Percy Omechelang, Charles Lemei, Tedley Ngewakl, Harley Ngewakl

Nightly Rosary is being offered at the residence of Mike Towai in San Vicente at 7:00PM.

On Saturday, January 31, 2015, Michaela will be escorted from CHC Morgue at 7:00AM to Santa Remedio Church in Tanapag for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00AM followed immediately by Interment Services at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Kom Mral Mesulang – Thank You

The Family



# Life & Style

## Diversity at Sundance doesn't carry over to Hollywood

**PARK CITY, Utah (AP)**—One of the most buzzed-about movies at this year's Sundance Film Festival is "Dope," a coming-of-age story about three outcasts in the inner city.

Written and directed by Rick Famuyiwa and featuring a diverse cast of actors, the film spawned a bidding war before domestic and international distribution rights were snapped up late Monday.

But when Famuyiwa and his producing partners, including Forest Whitaker and Pharrell Williams, initially shopped the film around to Hollywood studios, no one bit.

"I don't know if there's a recognition on the part of those who make these decisions that we're living in a world that doesn't look like what's being reflected on screen," Famuyiwa said.

Two years ago, a similar bidding battle broke out over another film that premiered at the festival, "Fruitvale Station," Ryan Coogler's dramatization of the killing of Oscar Grant by police in Oakland, California. A year before that, "Selma" director Ava DuVernay was named best director at Sundance for her debut fea-

ture, "Middle of Nowhere," about a woman whose husband is sentenced to eight years in prison.

While films by and about black people fare well at the independent festival, that success rarely translates to the Hollywood mainstream. "Whiplash" won the audience and jury awards at Sundance last year, and now it's up for a best-picture Oscar. "Fruitvale Station," however, won the same two prizes at Sundance, but didn't get any Oscar attention.

Studios will have to start paying attention—not only because of the backlash against the all-white Oscar nominations and snub of "Selma" director Ava DuVernay and star David Oyelowo, but because it's just good business, Famuyiwa and others said.

"It could be why it's getting harder and harder to get people into the cinemas and multiplexes," Famuyiwa said, "because we're just seeing a world that doesn't reflect reality."

Sacha Jenkins, whose documentary about hip-hop fashion, "Fresh Dressed," premiered at Sundance last week, suggests that Hollywood needs more executives of col-

or, and they need to be granted the same room to fail and succeed as other studio honchos.

"Like, just because I'm black or Latino or whatever, it doesn't mean I'm the go-to guy for all things black and Latino," he said. "Folks also need the opportunity to go beyond the box that you expect them to be in."

The chief executives at the five biggest Hollywood studios are white men.

Even with executives in place who are receptive to more diverse stories and storytellers, Hollywood studios still treat such stories as more the exception than rule, Famuyiwa said.

"They're stuck in ... old ways of thinking that the country and many other industries and businesses have already recognized and moved beyond," Famuyiwa said. "I think there's a sense sometimes when studios make these films that they're doing favors or that it's sort of a charity case—we're doing it because it's the right thing to do—but it's just good business at this point."

Diverse voices and stories are an inherent part of an independent festival, said Sundance founder Robert Redford.



In this Jan. 24, 2015 photo, Shameik Moore, from top left, director Rick Famuyiwa, Quincy Brown, and from bottom left, Chanel Iman and Kiersey Clemons pose for a portrait to promote the film, "Dope", at the Eddie Bauer Adventure House during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

## Sundance Watch: Celebs talk fest, iPhone film premieres

**PARK CITY, Utah (AP)**—The Associated Press is all over the Sundance Film Festival, from its premieres to the Hollywood glitz. Here's what they've seen and heard:

### CELEBRITY QUOTES ON SUNDANCE

From Kevin Bacon to Ethan Hawke, stars say they can't get enough of the Sundance Film Festival.

Bacon walked the festival's crowded Main Street with wife Kyra Sedgwick, noting that he first visited in 1989 with her.

"It was coming back to me today, because our journey from upper Main Street to down here was—you know—it's a pretty intense kind of trip—and it was so mellow, man. It was just a handful of people there," he said. "We kind of strolled into the theater and we watched The Big Picture and talked about it a little bit afterwards and eventually we went home and I never could have imagined what it would become."

Hawke returned to the festival with "Ten Thousand Saints" and another Oscar nomination under his belt for "Boyhood," which premiered at Sundance last year.

"The truth is I've had a lot of fun at this festival. We premiered 'Before Sunrise' here. We premiered 'Reality Bites' here.

Those were really pivotal moments in my life," he said. "And 'Before Midnight' premiered here, 'Boyhood.' It's a little good luck charm for me. I've never had a movie I wasn't proud of to be associated with here."

### THE FILM SHOT ENTIRELY WITH IPHONES

One Sundance movie was literally phoned in—the transgender prostitute tale "Tangerine."

The movie that premiered Friday at the Sundance Film Festival follows two characters Alexandra and Sin-Dee on a wild Christmas Eve night in Los Angeles as one chases after her pimp. It was shot entirely using iPhone 5s phones with anamorphic lens adapters.

"It made it more cinematic and we used this great app called Filmic Pro. And all of these combined ... really gave us a really unique, really different look and that's something that we were trying to achieve with this film, because also the subject matter is kind of different," director Sean Baker said.

It was the first major role for transgender actress Mya Taylor, who co-stars with real life friend Kiki Kitana Rodriguez.

The movie comes at a moment when transgender characters are being seen more than ever in mainstream media, including

Golden Globe winner Jeffrey Tambor's character on the Amazon show "Transparent" and Laverne Cox on Netflix's "Orange Is the New Black."

"I'm very happy about what's going on with transgender people coming out into the screen, because it's unheard of, you know? ... I'm proud of those shows, I think they're wonderful and this brings a good add-on to it, because it kind of brings you inside some of the lives of transgender people," Taylor said.

### REDFORD PRESENTS FILM AT HIS OWN FEST

Robert Redford took "A Walk in the Woods" to his own Sundance Film Festival.

The 78-year-old actor, director and producer had long hoped to adapt Bill Bryson's 1998 travel book about two friends hiking the Appalachian Trail. It finally came together last year, and director Ken Kwapis submitted it to the festival director without Redford's knowledge.

And that's how Redford ended up making the rounds to media outlets at the festival that he helped launch more than 30 years ago.

"The circumstances, maybe you can call them weird, but I just call them serendipitous. It's just one of those things

that came together. It does feel strange with Bill Bryson sitting next to me. That's a little strange. We were sitting in the screening last night. I found myself nervous that he was sitting next to me and I was playing him," Redford said.

Nick Nolte was cast to fill the part of Katz, the friend that accompanies Bryson on his walk. The two actors shifted the focus of the film from rediscovering America to also pondering their own mortality.

The 73-year-old Nolte said the two take slightly different approaches personally to aging—but he was glad to make a friend through the film.

"This I like because I've only got death left, you know. And that's all Bob has. Of course, he denies that but you know—that's the big event. I do have a 7-year-old daughter so that's been a blessing. It sparks you alive, it really does," Nolte said. "Bob has been a good addition as far as friends in my life. Not only as an actor but as a friend."

"A Walk in the Woods" does not yet have a US distributor. The Sundance Film Festival continues through next weekend.

### 'ME AND EARL' BECOMES BREAKOUT HIT OF FEST

The tale of a loner who be-

friends a fellow high school student with leukemia has become the breakout hit of the Sundance Film Festival.

Fox Searchlight bought "Me and Earl and the Dying Girl" after its well-received premiere Sunday for a reported \$12 million, a record price for a Sundance movie.

The film stars Thomas Mann as the Greg Gaines—the "me" in the title, and British actress Olivia Cooke is the "dying girl," while newcomer RJ Cyler is "Earl"—Gaines' best friend. The audience at Sundance's Eccles theatre gave the film a five-minute standing ovation as credits rolled.

"It was really emotional. We had seen the movie before but obviously it's a really different experience seeing it with a huge group of people who have no idea what they're about to see. And then the credits start rolling and everyone stands up and starts clapping. I mean, you start bawling. It's overwhelming," Mann said.

Cooke said she was sobbing. "Molly Shannon was next to me and her stomach kind of crumpled and she was like, 'huh huh,' bawling her eyes out," she said. "I couldn't. I was a wreck. That was embarrassing."

"We believe in diversity and freedom of expression is very much fundamental to us," he said. "You see films here that are going to upset other people, but that's OK. We will do everything in our power to keep (diversity) alive here."

The Sundance Institute intentionally seeks voices outside the mainstream with unique stories to tell. And its own research confirms that as the stakes go up—bigger budgets, bigger distributors—diversity goes down.

"The pipeline of young talent interested in telling stories is there, but somewhere along the way, they fall out of the business equation, of getting that work made," said Keri Putnam, executive director of the Sundance Institute. "So as money comes into the equation, diversity—whether it's gender or racial and ethnic diversity—seems to step out."

Multiplex movie going is also an issue, said Shaun Kost, who released his first film, "The Republic of Two," about a 20-something cohabitating couple facing the challenges of love, over the summer. As multiplexes replace independent theaters and movie going becomes more of an event, both exhibitors and ticket-buyers are less likely to take chances on unproven stories and storytellers.

"It comes down to proximity and what's available," he said.



# Kevin Spacey skips award shows to help aspiring Arab actors

**SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates (AP)**—Kevin Spacey skipped the Screen Actors Guild awards, which handed him a win for his wildly popular role on “House of Cards”, to watch 34 young actors from across the Arab world perform a play as part of his foundation’s Home Grown initiative supporting local talent.

The cast, all 25 years old or younger, hail from war-torn Syria, Egypt, Yemen, Iraq and other corners of the Middle East. For many of them, the play marked the first time they had ever left their home countries or been given support to hone their craft.

Abduljabbar al-Suhili, 25, from Sanaa, Yemen, is returning from the intensive workshops held in the United Arab Emirates to a country without a president. Yemen has been plagued by power outages, al-Qaida attacks, rebel Houthi advances and widespread political instability. Dabbling in the arts is considered a luxury, and acting is not seen as a serious profession, he says.

“The state bodies are preoccupied with the constitution, the transitional phase and security and stability because of



the political situation there,” he said. “This has impacted artists because we are unable to fulfill our ambitions in culture or artistic efforts on stage or in music. We have become concerned with earning a living.”

But for two weeks, al-Suhili had a chance to escape that. He and the other aspiring actors were flown to the emirate of Sharjah in the UAE in an all-expense-paid program with the nonprofit Middle

East Theatre Academy, a joint initiative launched in 2011 with the Kevin Spacey Foundation (KSF) and Emirati businessman Badr Jafar, whose family runs a Sharjah-based petroleum and gas conglomerate.

The actors were selected from a group of around 300 applicants for the first KSF Home Grown workshop to take place in the Middle East, with two previous workshops in the United States and Unit-

## Huntington acquires Louis Pasteur’s notes on brewing beer

**SAN MARINO, Calif. (AP)**—People interested in what kind of beer the guy who invented pasteurization kicked back with after work will want to pay a visit to San Marino’s Huntington Library.

The Huntington, whose treasures include a First Folio edition of Shakespeare’s plays, announced Tuesday it has acquired French scientist Louis Pasteur’s beer-brewing notes.

The extensive writings from the 1870s were acquired earlier this month by the Huntington’s Library Collectors Council, a group of 37 families who support the Southern California institution by helping buy materials it could not otherwise afford. Also acquired were several unpublished letters and poems by family members of Jane Austen, and writings, drawings and paintings by the 19th century New England seaman known as Wicked Ned.

## Lady Gaga, Tony Bennett among duets set for Grammy Awards

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The Grammy Awards will feature a number of collaborative performances, including Lady Gaga with Tony Bennett and Adam Levine with Gwen Stefani.

The Recording Academy said Tuesday that Annie Lennox will also be paired with newcomer Hozier and Jessie J with Tom Jones at the Feb. 8 show in Los Angeles.

“Throughout the years, the Grammy Awards has paired musical icons with new, upcoming artists to give fans remarkable performances that can only be seen on our stage,” Record-

ing Academy President and CEO Neil Portnow said in a statement. “This year is no different and, once again, promises to bring together unique musical worlds in innovative ways that blend genres and create new artistic boundaries.”

Gaga and Bennett’s duet album, “Cheek to Cheek,” is nominated for best traditional pop vocal album, where their competition includes Lennox. Hozier is nominated for song of the year for the hit, “Take Me to Church,” while Jessie J is up for best pop duo/group

performance for “Bang Bang” with Ariana Grande and Nicki Minaj.

Beyonce, Pharrell and Sam Smith are the Grammy leaders with six nominations apiece. They will all compete for the top prize, album of the year, along with Ed Sheeran and Beck.

Smith, Sheeran and Pharrell also will take the stage. Other performers include AC/DC, Madonna, Grande, Eric Church, Common, John Legend, Miranda Lambert and Usher.

The 57th annual Grammy Awards will air live from the Staples Center on CBS.

**AP**  
In this Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015 photo, young actors from across the Arab world attend a rehearsal for a play as part of the Kevin Spacey Foundation Home Grown initiative supporting local talent and supported by the Sharjah Institute of Theatrical Arts, in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. Spacey skipped the SAG awards to watch 34 young aspiring actors from across the Arab world perform a play.

ed Kingdom.

After two weeks of training with professional acting coaches from KSF, the actors performed a play titled “Dhow Under the Sun.” The

play is set in a fictional refugee camp where issues of poverty, corruption, love and hope form the narrative. With a two-night run, it premiered before an intimate gathering Sunday that included the ruler of the emirate of Sharjah, Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed al-Qasimi.

Before the opening night of the play, Spacey spent time coaching the young actors and gave them tips to take with them back home. When introducing the play, he told the audience that it was this kind of setting that helped him grow as an actor.

## LA jury awards \$5 million to funk legend Sly Stone

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Funk legend Sly Stone was awarded \$5 million on Tuesday in a breach-of-contract suit that claimed his business partners and his own company cheated him out of royalties.

A Los Angeles Superior Court jury ruled for the 71-year-old performer in his action against his ex-manager Gerald Goldstein, attorney Glenn Stone and Even St. Productions Ltd.

“It’s a good day for Sly, it’s a good day for entertainers in general,” said one of his attorneys, Nicholas Hornberger. “This was an important verdict for people that are artists, entertainers, music composers, etc.”

Stone, whose real name is

Sylvester Stewart, led the group Sly and the Family Stone to a string of hits in the 1960s and early ’70s including “Everyday People,” “Dance To The Music” and “Family Affair.” But heavy drug use began to take a toll.

His lawyers say Stone’s career was long eclipsed and he was destitute when Goldstein and Glenn Stone convinced him to become an employee of and co-owner of Even St. Productions with them in 1989.

Stone assigned royalty rights to the company and was supposed to receive some of the money it collected for him but Goldstein and Glenn Stone arranged to get it through shady accounting, Hornberger argued.

## Katie Holmes to guest on ‘Ray Donovan’

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Actress Katie Holmes is joining the Showtime drama “Ray Donovan” for its upcoming third season.

The former “Dawson’s Creek” star will play businesswoman Holmes Paige, a daughter of billionaire producer Andrew Finney, who is portrayed by Ian McShane. Finney enlists the services of the show’s title



character, a Hollywood fixer played by Liev Schreiber.

“Ray Donovan” started production this week for its third season, which is expected to begin sometime this summer.

Holmes recently played Jackie Kennedy in the television miniseries “The Kennedys,” and has been in several films.

## Woman’s love for boyfriend doesn’t spill over to his son

**DEAR ABBY:** I am in a great relationship with a wonderful man, “Kevin.” He loves me very much and we get along well. I have three kids—two with special needs—and Kevin loves them and treats them like his own. He also has a son, age 6, who has cystic fibrosis.

I love Kevin and can see myself marrying him. The problem is, I don’t think I like his son. He’s a good kid, cute and funny, but I don’t feel “love” for him. I’m affectionate with my own kids, but I have to force myself to be with this boy. I am easily irritated by him and sometimes just don’t want to be bothered.

I know this sounds terrible, but I don’t know what I should do. I don’t want to end my relationship with Kevin because I’m so in love. But is it fair to stay with him if I don’t love his son, too?

IN CONFLICT IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR IN CONFLICT:** Frankly, it depends upon whether you can learn to love the boy. You say you don’t like him. Why not? Is the reason valid? Is he mean, dishonest, spoiled or too needy? Or could it be that he’s a living reminder that your boyfriend once loved another woman?

If your relationship is to work, you may need an attitude adjustment. Can you focus on the positive qualities the boy has? That would be a good first step. If not, then for everyone’s sake, end the relationship now.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am 12 and my mom is part of a church group (Unitarian). She recently told me she is taking me to her church where they are making pies for the homeless. Even though this is a nice act, I don’t want to be a part of it (mainly because I am very shy around new people).

When I told my mom, she said she thought I was being rude and inconsiderate, and that she would make me come and ground me if I didn’t go. Is there any way I can explain it to her better?

SHY KID

**DEAR SHY KID:** If you have already told your mother the reason is your shyness, then I can’t think of a way to state it more clearly. She may feel that your help in the project is urgently needed, which is why she’s insisting. Or, she may feel that it might help you to overcome your shyness. Sometimes when people work together for a worthy cause they forget about themselves and their insecurities. I hope you will give it a try—if only so you won’t be grounded.

**DEAR ABBY:** Our waitress in a mid-level chain restaurant was friendly and helpful, but her tongue was pierced with a stud. It impaired her speech, making her hard to understand and it was visible every time she spoke.

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



We are pretty liberal about most things, but it was difficult for us to enjoy our meal. Would it have been OK for us to ask for a different waitress?

PUT OFF IN TENNESSEE

**DEAR PUT OFF:** Yes. If you preferred that another server help you, it was within your rights to ask for one or ask to be moved to a table in another section of the restaurant.

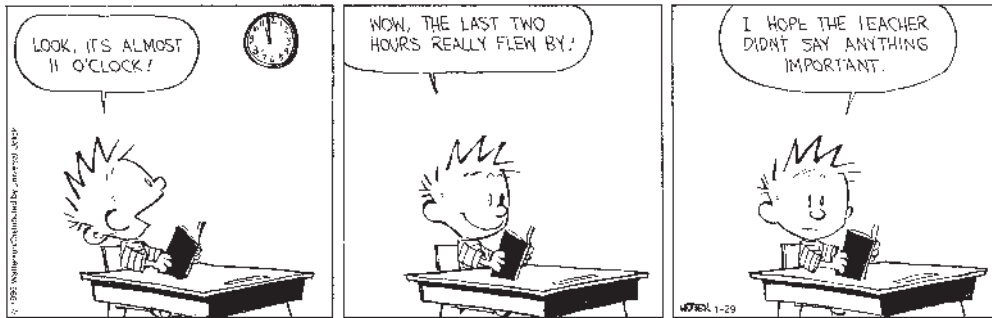
Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



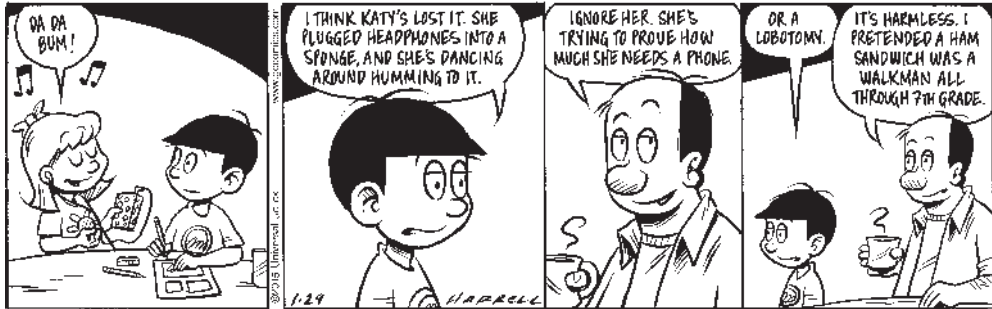
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



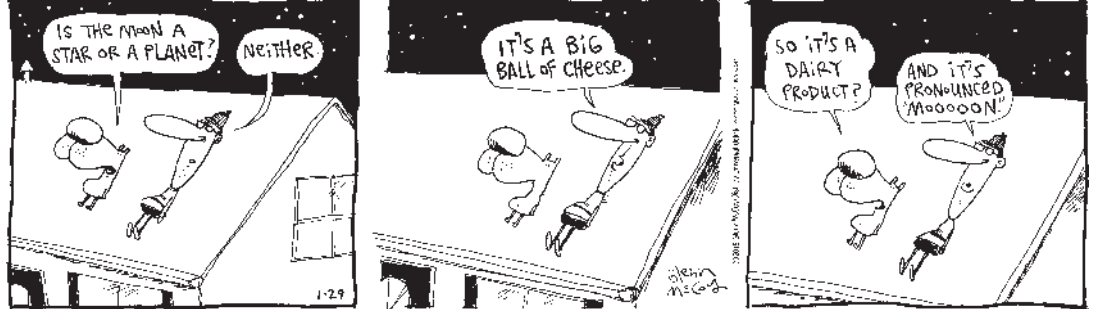
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

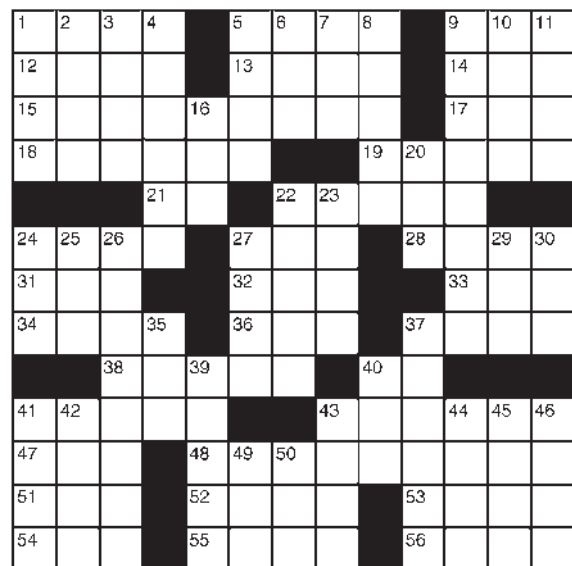
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- Unembellished
  - Movie producer
  - Gear tooth
  - Holly
  - Vicinity
  - Lawyers' org.
  - Bishop's bailiwick
  - Aviv
  - Last
  - Antiknock alcohol
  - Man's address
  - Star's bit part
  - Spiked club
  - Once around
  - "Sad to tell ..."
  - Carte intro
  - Part of TGIF
  - Bachelor's last words
  - Compassion
  - Yon maiden
  - Garbage barge
  - Gleeful
- DOWN**
- Dorothy's auntie
  - Heard the rooster
  - Psychological injury
  - Scepter
  - Purgative
  - Anger
  - Shrek is one
  - Mountain lake
  - Commercials
  - Sauce source
  - Old woman's home?
  - On a pension (Abbr.)
  - Dig up the
  - Green gem
  - Bobby of hockey
  - Vast expanse
  - "The Crucible"
  - setting
  - Wide-ranging
  - Do as you're told
  - Chutzpah
  - Blunder
  - Afternoon social
  - Cartoonist Guise-wite's heroine
  - Church section
  - Chart
  - Frazier foe
  - Battery terminals
  - Speech problem
  - Kerfuffle
  - Scatter seeds
  - Tibetan beast
  - Intelligence
  - Rio Grande feeder
  - Geologic time
  - Met melody
  - Sentence component
  - "Team"
  - Hexagonal state
  - Spanish muralist
  - Joan
  - Dermatologist's case
  - Past
  - Have a go at

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

C	O	N	E	J	A	W	S	H	E	S
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E	B	B	T	R	Y	T	E	E	N	S
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T	O	R	T	K	I	N	I	R	I	S
S	A	S	S	S	O	S	L	O	N	E

Yesterday's answer 1-29



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Sara Gilbert, 40; Heather Graham, 45; Oprah Winfrey, 61; Tom Selleck, 70.

**Happy Birthday:** Put more emphasis on home, family and making the positive changes that will ensure greater success in both your personal and professional life. Balance should be your goal, and stability the end result. Financial improvements are doable if you make an innovative investment, sell what you don't need, cut corners and accumulate what will grow in value. Your numbers are 2, 9, 13, 21, 23, 38, 43.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Discuss your options with someone you have worked with in the past. Don't let an emotional incident interfere with your productivity or how you get along with someone of influence. Make the appropriate changes to help you advance. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Expanding your mind and your self-awareness will bring about a change of attitude and an increased appreciation of friendships. You can influence others by sharing your thoughts and offering an alternative way to live. ★★★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Your curiosity will mount. Trying something new will bring you in contact with people who can influence your life. Don't be too eager to make a leap of faith. Your research will show that you are better off following your own path. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Romance, a trip to exotic destinations and trying something new will give you the boost

you need. Good fortune awaits if you are willing to put more effort into the way you present who you are and what you want. ★★★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Deception is apparent where money and joint ventures are concerned. You can make changes, but do so for the right reasons and only after you have done sufficient research to warrant moving forward. Too much of anything will work against you. ★★★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Re-evaluate your current personal and professional relationships. If you feel someone is working against you, look at your alternatives and do whatever is necessary to avoid creating a scene. Rely on facts and figures, not hearsay. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Size up your situation and make your move. You have plenty to gain by using your intelligence to maneuver your way through any discussion that can have an impact on your relationships in business or in your personal life. ★★★★★

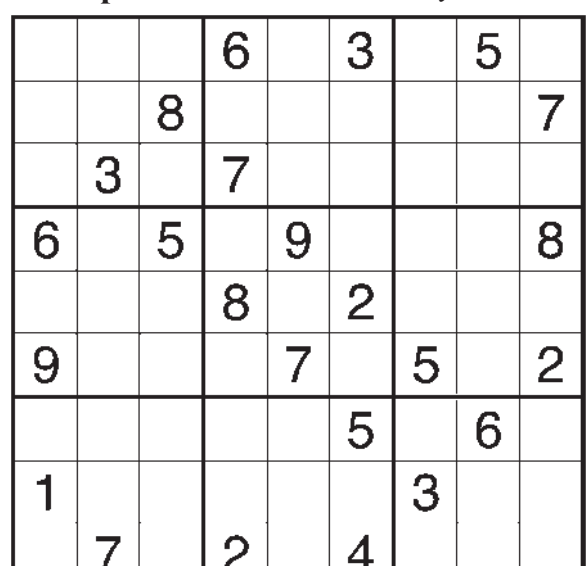
**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Someone close to you will show signs of instability. Look for a unique way to compensate for someone's loss or confusion. Positive change will help to bring you closer together and improve the way you live and do things in the future. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Don't let someone's personal interest in you cause confusion. You are best to make positive changes at home that will help you re-evaluate what you already have. Someone pretending to offer what you want will mislead you. ★★★★★

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



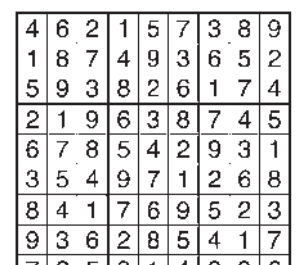
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/29

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/29

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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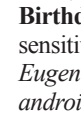
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Don't allow the changes going on around you to cause stress. If you don't like something, make positive moves rather than complain. Revert back to the situations, people and places that have worked best for you in the past. ★★★★★



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Don't let opposition scare you. Focus on your family, your home environment and making changes that will bring greater happiness and joy to you and those you love. Don't give in to someone trying to control what you can and cannot do. ★★★★★



**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Keep a tight lip to avoid being called a meddler. Emotional matters will escalate quickly, causing problems for you that can influence your personal and professional status. Don't fold under pressure or reveal sensitive information. Observe, but do not take action. ★★★★★



**Birthday Baby:** You are inquisitive, trendy and sensitive. You are unique and intuitive. Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

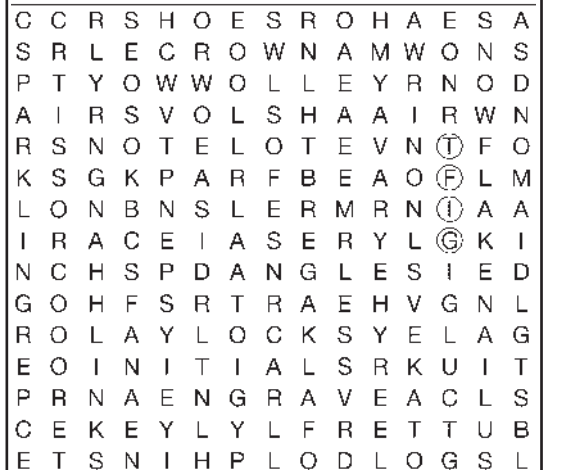
## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHARMING CHARMS

Solution: 8 letters



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Anchor, Angel, Anniversary, Beads, Bear, Blue, Butterfly, Chain, Clover, Cross, Crown, Crystals, Dangle, Diamonds, Dolphin, Engrave, Flip-flop, Flower, Gift, Gold, Hang, Heart, Horseshoe, Initials, Key, Links, Locks, Lucky, Ornament, Oval, Pink, Seahorse, Shoes, Silver, Snowflake, Snowman, Sparkling, Sports, Stars, Sterling, Symbol, Tags, Yellow  
**Yesterday's Answer: Jax**  
To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1**, order online at [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com). (Contains 100 puzzles.)



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**(1) Marketing Manager**  
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• Oversee or monitor new trends of Marine Sports Services  
• Compile list describing Marine Sports Activity Services  
• Develop pricing strategies with the goal of maximizing the firms' profit or share of the market while ensuring the company's customers  
• Able to speak English, Korean & Chinese Language  
• Must have at least 3 years work related experience  
Interested applicants, please send resume to santos\_adonis@yahoo.com or call 670-323-2916

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• Oversee or monitor new trends of Marine Sports Services  
• Compile list describing Marine Sports Activity Services  
• Develop pricing strategies with the goal of maximizing the firms' profit or share of the market while ensuring the company's customers  
• Able to speak English, Korean & Chinese Language  
• Must have at least 3 years work related experience  
Interested applicants, please send resume to santos\_adonis@yahoo.com or call 670-323-2916

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/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**  
Corporate Director

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# Deflated topic: air pressure in footballs



**PHOENIX** (AP)—Patriots owner Robert Kraft's preemptive strike the previous night took the issue of air pressure in footballs on Super Bowl media day and, well, deflated it.

Not only was the topic rarely raised in questioning of players from both sides Tuesday, but Kraft's protesting how his franchise is being portrayed seemed to provide the last word on the issue—for now.

In a short appearance at media day, Kraft assessed the impact of his strong statement delivered when New England arrived Monday. During that statement, he said he expects an apology from the NFL when its investigation determines the Patriots did nothing wrong.

"To be honest, I think by and large except for our quarterback they don't pay much attention to it," Kraft said of the Patriots' reaction to the under-inflated footballs controversy. "I think they think it's a bunch of hogwash. Bill (Belichick) does a good job of making them understand what they have to focus on.

"I've gotten a lot of positive comments from them. I just said what I believed."

Beyond that, the NFL's investigation of deflated footballs used by New England in the AFC championship victory over Indianapolis gave way to questions about players' favorite musicians, movies and clothing.

The always dashing Belichick, wearing a hoodie, of course, jeans and flip-flops on the podium, deflected any and all references to the subject. Not that there were more than two or three queries.

Quarterback Tom Brady, clearly at ease and having fun with the varied topics, barely was approached about the issue.

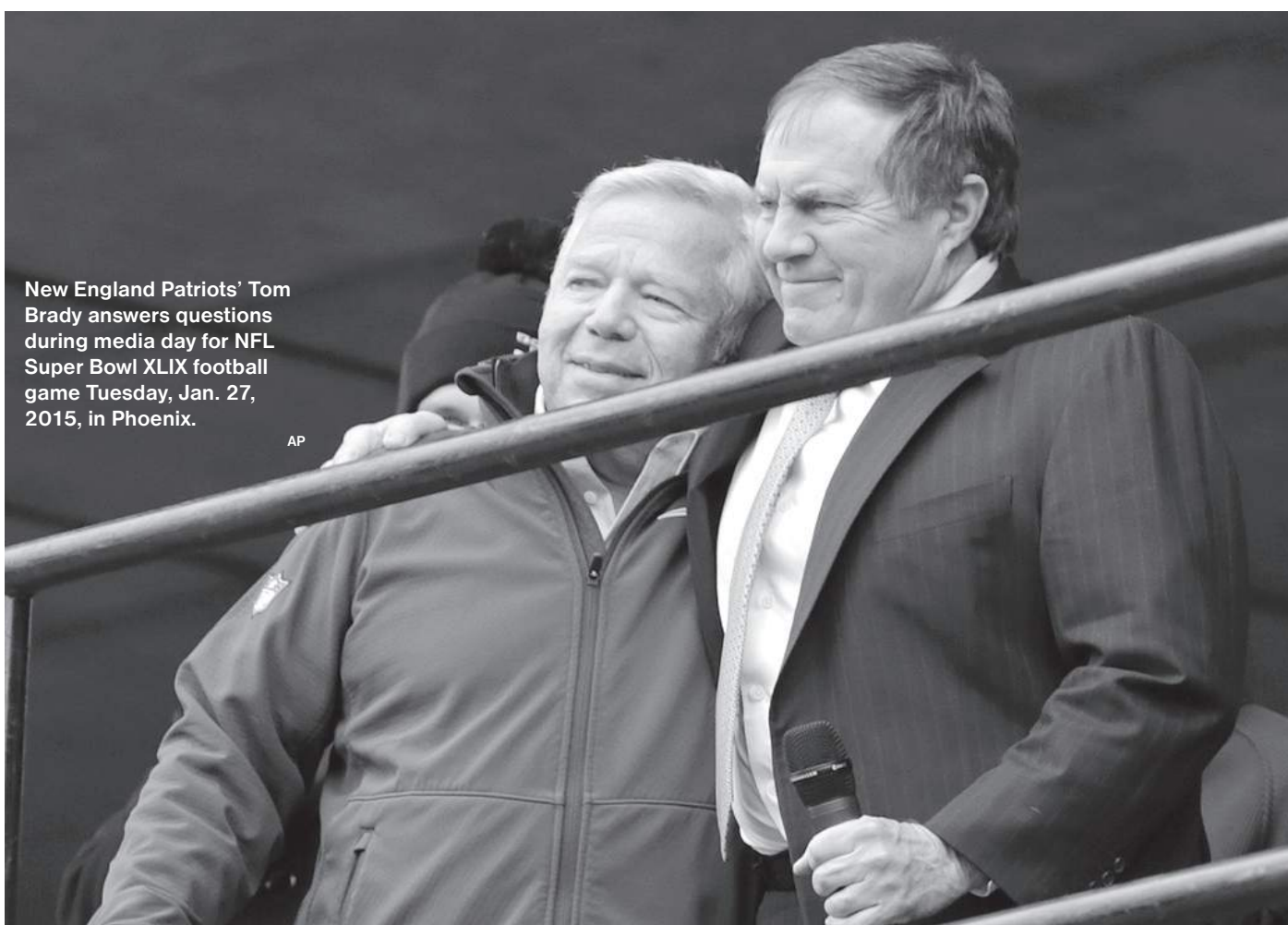
Same thing for the rest of the Patriots, who figure the investigation led by NFL Executive Vice President Jeff Pash and Ted Wells of the law firm of Paul Weiss will stretch well beyond Sunday's title game.

For All-Pro tight end Rob Gronkowski, there was an entirely different line of questioning he was thrilled to avoid.

"It feels good not to get any questions asked about my health, no doubt," said Gronkowski, who was hobbled for the 2012 Super Bowl loss to the Giants. "It feels good to be 100 percent healthy and 100 percent ready to roll for this game and not get a million questions like last time about my ankle."

For their part, the Seahawks seemed nothing more than amused about the probe into under-inflated footballs.

All-Pro cornerback Richard Sherman, who on Sunday said he didn't expect the Patriots to get punished even if found guilty because of Kraft's close ties to Commissioner Roger



New England Patriots' Tom Brady answers questions during media day for NFL Super Bowl XLIX football game Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015, in Phoenix.

AP

Goodell, chuckled when asked if he could tell when a football didn't have enough air.

"When I get my hands on them I'm trying to return them, not check the pressure," Sherman said.

Nor is Seahawks center Max Unger, who merely has his

hands on the football on very offensive snap.

"People keep asking me if

I can feel the difference between pressure of the ball," Unger said, a touch of wonderment in his eyes. "I'm the center, I touch it every single play. I can't, if I'm being honest with you. I don't think it really even matters that much."

Ah, but to some folks it matters a lot. And, obviously, the NFL is very serious about its investigation.

Defensive tackle Kevin Williams, in his first Super Bowl after spending 11 seasons in Minnesota, understands in part what is driving the air pressure hysteria.

"You would be surprised, a lot of fans are interested in that stuff," Williams said. "In the end it won't help you tackle anybody or get anybody on the ground. But at the same time you want everybody to be on the same competitive level."

But Williams knows how much impact it will have on the Patriots and Seahawks on Sunday.

"Oh man, it is pretty dumb," he said. "I'm not going to say it is the dumbest thing I have ever heard of—you want guys on the same level—but I have said that it won't help anybody cover, it won't help anybody defeat blocks."

"It is not a big issue."

## SIDEBAR

### Wilson recalls watching as a kid while Brady won Super Bowls

**PHOENIX** (AP)—Tom Brady began winning Super Bowls when Russell Wilson was still a teenager, tuning in to see the big game on TV.

"Of course I remember watching Brady," Wilson said Tuesday. "He won some incredible games. Incredible comebacks. Incredible throws. Incredible plays. Hopefully he doesn't make too many incredible ones this year."

When Wilson leads the Seattle Seahawks into the Super Bowl against Brady and the New England Patriots on Sunday, both quarterbacks know the outcome will affect the way each is viewed for quite a while.

Wilson can become the eighth starting QB to win consecutive Super Bowl championships, and the first since Brady did it 10 years ago.

According to STATS, Wilson also would be the first to claim two in his first three years in the league (as it is, he's the first starting quarterback to make it to two Super Bowls that quickly).

Brady, meanwhile, won titles in 2002, 2004, and 2005. But since then, he is 0-2 in Super Bowls, with a pair of losses to the New York Giants in 2008 and 2012.

"Look, any time you lose the last game of the year, it's tough," said Brady, who sounded stuffed up and coughed a couple of times. "The last two times we've been in this game, we haven't been able to close it out. We're



New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick, right, embraces team owner Robert Kraft during an NFL football send-off rally at City Hall in Boston Monday, Jan. 26, 2015.

AP

hoping this is our day."

A victory over the Seahawks would allow the 37-year-old Brady to match his idol as a kid, Joe Montana, and Terry Bradshaw with four rings.

But a defeat would drop Brady's career mark on Super Sunday to .500 at 3-3.

"You never get over any of those," Brady said about the defeats. "As time goes on, you gain perspective and you still had some great years. ... It would be great for this team to try to leave a great legacy."

When he won his first NFL championship in 2002, with a 20-17 victory over the St.

Louis Rams, Brady was in his first year as a starter and second year in the league.

Initially a backup after being drafted in the sixth round, he took over from injured quarterback Drew Bledsoe—and the rest is history.

"Tom Brady's done a lot of great things over the last 15 years," Patriots tight end Tim Wright said.

Who would argue?

After the usual Media Day fare concerning his favorite music (Jay-Z got a shout-out) and his hair (but no marriage proposals, as happened in the past), Brady got around to tak-

ing questions Tuesday about his place in the game.

He knows full well that Super Bowl success is a major part of how quarterbacks' careers are defined. And Brady said he recalls the feeling of hoisting the Lombardi Trophy three times in a four-year span a decade ago.

"Those things happened so fast back then. I didn't even understand what was happening," Brady said. "It's not like I didn't appreciate those experiences. I certainly did. But ... we've had two tough ones."

Wilson, 26, has yet to play an NFL season that didn't include at least one playoff vic-

tory for his team.

He goes about things a different way than Brady on the field, far more skilled as a ball carrier and on-the-move improviser. Wilson can sling the football, too, though, and put it right where he wants it, as evidenced by his 35-yard touchdown throw in overtime to win the NFC championship game against the Green Bay Packers.

Before a late comeback, Seattle trailed by 16 points. Wilson had a passer rating of zero at halftime and he finished the game with four interceptions.

But that did not concern him Tuesday. The only thing that did was the final score.

"I want to be considered a winner," said Wilson, sporting a thick beard. "That's ultimately the goal in terms of playing quarterback: Win, win, win."

Asked which quarterbacks were his favorites while growing up, Wilson mentioned Brady and Peyton Manning, calling them "two guys that I've looked up to since I was a little kid."

In last year's Super Bowl, Seattle overwhelmed Manning's Denver Broncos 43-8, part of Wilson's 10-0 record in games against quarterbacks who have won a title.

That could become 11-0 on Sunday.

"To get back to the Super Bowl is a huge thing," Wilson said. "It's a one-of-a-kind thing."

Not for this game's two QBs.



# Rose's shot lifts Bulls over Warriors 113-111 in overtime



**OAKLAND, Calif.** (AP)—Derrick Rose hit a step-back jumper with 7 seconds remaining in overtime, and the Chicago Bulls ended Golden State's franchise-record 19-game home winning streak with a thrilling 113-111 victory over the Warriors on Tuesday night.

Rose dribbled to his left and created space to get the shot off over Klay Thompson, skipping around the court after the Warriors called timeout. Rose finished with 30 points, and his final basket overshadowed a night when he committed a career-high 11 turnovers and made just 13 of 33 shots.

Thompson misfired on a running bank shot as time expired to finish off Golden State's first loss at rowdy Oracle Arena in more than two months.

The Warriors forced overtime on Draymond Green's tying tip-in with 1.4 seconds left. But they couldn't do enough to slow down a rejuvenated Rose and Chicago's front line with center Andrew Bogut out with flu-like symptoms.

Pau Gasol had 18 points and 16 rebounds, and Joakim Noah had 18 points and 15 rebounds as the Bulls pounded the Warriors down low. They outrebounded Golden State 61 to 48.

Thompson had 30 points and 10 rebounds, and David Lee scored a season-high 24 points for the NBA-leading Warriors (36-7), who lost on their home floor for the only the second time all season and the first time since San Antonio knocked them off on Nov. 11.

The teams finished a wildly entertaining game in dramatic finish.

Stephen Curry capped a 7-0 spurt to start the fourth quarter with one of his biggest highlights, faking a behind-the-back pass with his left hand and throwing a no-look toss over his right shoulder to Lee for a dunk to put the Warriors up 88-79.

But just as he did throughout the night, Rose brought the Bulls back—bringing a louder-than-usual visiting crowd in Oakland to a light roar each time. The Warriors still led 105-100 with 2:18 left before the Bulls made their final charge.

Chicago capped its closing burst by trapping Curry in the backcourt and forcing him into an errant pass. Rose came up with the ball and fed Kirk Hinrich, whose 3-pointer put the Bulls up 107-105 with 15.8 seconds remaining.

Andre Iguodala missed a 3 after a timeout, but Green pushed Noah aside for the tying tip-in. Rose's long-range heave at the end of regulation was never close.

Neither team could create much separation in the extra session.

Green stole Hinrich's inbound pass in the final minute before Thompson missed a 3-pointer on the other end. Rose



AP  
Chicago Bulls' Derrick Rose (1) shoots over Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green (23) during overtime of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015, in Oakland, Calif. Chicago won 113-111.

the Mavericks, who failed for the third time to get coach Rick Carlisle his 600th career victory.

## Wizards 98, Lakers 92

In Los Angeles, John Wall had 21 points, 13 assists and nine rebounds, and the Washington Wizards rallied from a 19-point deficit to send the Los Angeles Lakers to their ninth straight loss.

Bradley Beal scored 19 points for the Wizards, who won their fifth straight over the Lakers.

Wayne Ellington scored a career-high 28 points and rookie Jordan Clarkson had a career-high 18 for the Lakers, who are on their longest skid since April 1994.

## Raptors 104, Pacers 91

In Indianapolis, DeMar DeRozan scored 24 points and Kyle Lowry added 19 to lead Toronto to the win.

The Atlantic Division-leading Raptors (30-15) overcame a sluggish first quarter to pick up their third straight win. The victory also gave Toronto a franchise record for most wins before the All-Star break.

Rodney Stuckey scored 22 points and Solomon Hill finished with 15 to lead Indiana (16-31), which has lost eight of nine.

dribbled out the shot clock, then hit the jumper over Thompson to put the Bulls up for good.

After a timeout, Nikola Mirotic fouled Iguodala behind the basket as he went up. Officials ruled Iguodala was not in the act of shooting, giving Golden State the ball on the side—which Warriors coach Steve Kerr argued.

Thompson broke free on the inbounds pass, but missed an open bank shot to finish off Golden State's loss.

## Cavaliers 103, Pistons 95

In Auburn Hills, Mich., Kyrie Irving matched his season high with 38 points and LeBron James added 32 to lift the Cleveland Cavaliers to their seventh straight victory.

The Cavs avenged a 23-point home loss to Detroit late last month. That game was part of a seven-game winning streak for the Pistons, but now Detroit is struggling to overcome the loss of Brandon Jennings, who ruptured his left Achilles tendon last weekend and will miss the rest of the season.

James fell to the floor near the basket during the final seconds of the third quarter and got up grimacing, apparently concerned about at least one of his wrists. He went to the bench, but only briefly. His two-handed breakaway dunk early in the fourth put Cleveland up 80-68.

## Bucks 109, Heat 102

In Miami, Brandon Knight had 17 points and six assists and the Milwaukee Bucks put seven players in double figures on the way to beating the Miami Heat.

Khris Middleton also scored 17 for the Bucks, who got 15 from Jerryd Bayless, 14 from O.J. Mayo, 13 from Giannis Antetok-

ounmpo, 12 from John Henson and 11 from Chris Dudley.

With fighters Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao watching courtside, Milwaukee beat Miami for the third time in as many meetings this season, moving three games clear of the Heat in the race for No. 6 in the Eastern Conference. The Bucks' bench outscored Miami's 44-13.

Chris Bosh had 26 points for

Miami. The Heat lost Dwyane Wade in the third quarter with what the team said was a strained right hamstring.

## Grizzlies 109, Mavericks 90

In Dallas, Zach Randolph had 22 points and 10 rebounds, and the Memphis Grizzlies handed the Dallas Mavericks their first three-game losing

streak of the season.

Marc Gasol added 15 points and a game-high six assists for the Grizzlies, who won their fourth straight and eighth in their past nine games a night after finishing a season-long five-game homestand. The only loss in that stretch was to Dallas last week at home.

Chandler Parsons and Monta Ellis scored 19 apiece to lead

# Serena advances, Venus out of Australian Open



**MELBOURNE, Australia** (AP)—Madison Keys defeated one Williams sister Wednesday at the Australian Open. On Thursday, the 19-year-old American will try to make it two, and this sibling might be a little tougher, even with a cold.

Keys overcame a left thigh injury to beat No. 18-ranked Venus Williams 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 and advance to the last four against top-ranked and 18-time major winner Serena Williams, who had little trouble beating last year's finalist, Dominika Cibulkova, 6-2, 6-2.

In men's play, defending champion Stan Wawrinka beat Kei Nishikori 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (6) to avenge a five-set loss to the Japanese star in the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open last year. Wawrinka, who let slip a 6-1 lead in the third-set tiebreaker and eventually needed six match points to close it out, will play the winner of the Novak Djokovic-Milos Ronic night match on Rod Laver Arena.

Serena Williams made her win look easy despite suffering from a bad cold the past few days. She spoke with a hoarse voice in her post-match interview on court.

view on court.

"I have to keep my answers short because I keep coughing," Williams said.

"I've been sick the past few days, and it's just getting worse and worse, but hopefully it will get better," Williams added later. "I heard there's a virus going around with a lot of the players, and I think I caught it."

There had been some hope that the semis might feature an all-Williams matchup at a major for the first time in more than five years. The Williams sisters last met in a Grand Slam match at Wimbledon in 2009, when Serena won the final.

The semifinalists from the other half of the women's draw have already been determined—No. 2 Maria Sharapova will play No. 10-seeded Ekaterina Makarova, also on Thursday.

Serena's win doesn't bode well for the other three women left—all five past times Williams has advanced to the semifinals at Melbourne Park, she's won the tournament.

Venus Williams' loss ended an encouraging 10 days for the 34-year-old veteran at Melbourne Park. She hadn't advanced to the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam since the U.S.

Open in 2010 and had struggled to recapture her earlier form after being diagnosed in 2011 with Sjogren's syndrome, an auto-immune disease that causes fatigue and joint pain.

But Williams is 9-1 to start the new year after capturing her season-opening tournament in Auckland, New Zealand, before the Australian Open.

"It already feels like a long season already, so many matches in a row," she said. "But it's a great start. Hopefully I'll be able to keep this level up."

Regardless of the quality of the match, in which the two players combined for 83 unforced errors, Keys was pleased to be through to the semis.

"It's amazing, you just have to embrace the moment," said Keys, who is now coached by three-time major winner Lindsay Davenport. "And I get to enjoy another moment next round."

She later identified her injury as a left adductor, and was optimistic it wouldn't affect her in her match against Serena. The same injury forced her to retire from her third-round match at Wimbledon last year.

"I think it's one of those things where all of us have dealt with injuries before," she said. "I'm probably going to have tape on it, but I'm just going to do my absolute best and enjoy the moment."

Wawrinka looked to be cruising in his tiebreaker with Nishikori, but the Japanese player saved match point after match point with a combination of great shots and errors by Wawrinka.

Nishikori made the biggest error at the wrong time, however, attempting a drop shot from the back of the court that bundled into the net. That set up another match point for Wawrinka, which he converted with an ace, his 20th of the match.

"Phew, I'm still nervous," Wawrinka said in his post-match interview on court. "It's never easy with his returning. You have to go for it."

Nishikori said he had a difficult day.

"I was struggling with my serve ... I couldn't get good rhythm in the first and second set," Nishikori said. "He played really aggressive, great tennis. Mentally I was fine, I was ready to go. But he was a little bit better today."



# Angeles, Chong top first roll-off in 2015

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

Raymond Angeles and Diane Chong topped the first roll-off of the 2015 Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes held last Sunday and Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose.

Angeles, who finished third after losing to eventual champion Simon Manacop in the King of the Lanes finale, had the best score on the final day to clinch the \$90 top prize. He bowled in the 200s in three of the four-game series.

Angeles started the final day of the roll-off with a 224, but

slowed down in the second game with a 152. He managed to shake it off with a 247 and 214 for the 837 total and a 209.25 average.

He also joined the first day, but was nowhere near the leaders then with a 674

tally—158, 174, 173, 169—for a 168.5 average.

Angeles bested Ador Dimaano by 17 pins as the veteran kepler had 820 pinfalls in his first day —196, 210, 201, 204—for a 205 average and the \$40 prize.



Angeles

Dimaano had a roller-coaster final day with games of 205, 182, 176, and 216 for 779 (194.75).

Robert Talavera also improved his opening day score by six pins, from 812 on Sunday to 818 on Monday night. His four-game tally—158, 174, 173, 169—for a 168.5 average. Percy Omechelang finished fourth with a final day tally of 815—234, 174, 204, 203—good enough for \$20.

Chong, meanwhile, had her

final game on Sunday to thank for as she clinched the January Queen of the Lanes crown by one pin. She defeated Kathy Mersai for the title.

Chong was actually trailing Mersai by 32 pins after three games, but the former's 230 in the fourth was enough to secure her the crown and the \$80 top purse. She tallied 718



Chong

against Mersai's 717.

Mersai went home with the \$35 runner-up prize, while Gloria Omechelang (696) and 2014 Queen of the Lanes finale champion Diana Camacho (680) came in third and fourth, respectively, to settle for \$25 and \$15.

Manacop, brothers Ruselle,

Raymond and Raphael Zapanta, Lee Yong Woon, Raul Dumapit, Paul Pangelinan, Bernard Paraiso, M.J. Aldan, Ariel Dumapit, Edward Baluyan, Ben Aizon, Jorge Soledad, Lito Teodoro, Tony Yarobwemal, and Ronald Batac were the others bowlers who joined the January roll-off.

Tess Fabie, Carrie Camacho, Yho Villavicencio, Janice Camacho, Ron Call, Elena Soll, Myna Santos, Lunda Yarobwemal, Gigi Zapanta, Anna Kim, Lala Taitano, and Dolores Palacios were the other participants in the women's division.

## Peter calls out RGA members' support

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER



Ed Peter is calling on all members of the Refaluwasch Golf Association to come out and support the second round of the CNMI men's golf team tryouts this Saturday at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

"I'm inviting all RGA members to come out and help the team that's being formed. Help support the team's cause," said Peter, who is supervising the five-round tryouts that aim to find the four best golfers who will represent the CNMI in the 2015 Pacific Games in Port Moresby, Papua

New Guinea from July 4 to 18

"This is an open tryout. Any golfer who wants to tryout can join. But I'm asking all golfers to help the cause until the final day of the tryout since the fee that will be collected will be the start up fund of the team to the 2015 Pacific Games," added Peter.

Registration on Saturday starts at 10am and tee off is at 11am. The times will be the same in the third round on Feb. 7, the final day at COP, as well as in the last two rounds on Feb. 14 and 21 at Kingfisher Golf links. In the last four rounds, participants will only pay the green fee and an additional \$20 for Team CNMI's fund.

J.J. Atalig topped the first of the

five-round tryouts, which follows a gross play format for 18 rounds, to become one of the early favorites to secure a spot on the team.

The Top 12 golfers after the five rounds will qualify in the next stage where they will play another five rounds. The Top 5 golfers, including one alternate, after the final qualifying stage will make up Team CNMI and represent the Commonwealth in the 2015 Pacific Games.

The golf competition in PNG will run for four days with teams battling for 12 medals at stake in the men's and women's singles and the men's and women's team events.

For more information, call Peters at 288-7482 or 788-7664.

## 3 SWEEP

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in the U8 age group, Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero prevailed in the boys 9 to 10, and Miku Tammy reigned in the girls 11 to 12, while SSC's Kento Akimaru ruled the boys 13 to 14 division.

Dangol joined four events (50m freestyle, 50m backstroke, 50m breaststroke, and 50m butterfly) and earned

first place finishes in all events to get 36 points and down teammates Kana Suzuki (28) and Shaunalyn Babauta (24). Xu placed first in the 50m freestyle, 50m backstroke, and 50m breaststroke and runner-up in the 50m butterfly for 36 points to edge fellow Tsunami Saipan bet Isaiiah Aleksenko (30), Aasish Dangol (23), and SSC's Dino Sato (21). Swimmers in the U8 age group had the op-

tion to join 4 or 5 events.

In the boys 9 to 10, Camacho-Deleon Guerrero had a neck-and-neck battle for first place against SSC's Jinnozuke Suzuki with the former gaining 39 points against the latter's 38. Tsunami Saipan's Juhn Tenorio rounded out the Top 3 with his 31 points and was followed by SSC's Rintaro Miyawaki (26), Taiyo Akimaru (21), Tsunami Saipan's Kenta Tomie (11), SSC's

Akira Kadokura (11), and Tsunami Saipan's Rentaro Suzuki (8).

In the girls 11 to 12, Tammy finished six points ahead of Tsunami Saipan teammate Sophia Gauran, 43-37. Aika Watanabe made it a 1-2-3 finish for Tsunami Saipan after getting 30 points and beating SSC's Conatsu Kaga (25), Jin Ju Thompson (20), and Jasmin Frink (15).

The host club duplicated Tsunami Saipan's feat in the boys 13 to 14 age group with Kento Akimaru leading the

field with his 43 points and beating teammates Christian Villacrusis (37) and David Boyer (27). Tsunami Saipan's Mark Mestro collected 23 points to settle for fourth place.

In the three other age groups, Tsunami Saipan and 15 to 16's Angel De Jesus and Kaito Yanai were left unchallenged, while Daime Rivera was also the lone entry in the girls over 17 division.

Meanwhile, individual results of the weekend races will be reported tomorrow.

## NORTH STARZ

From Page 28

the Falcons are tied for the early lead with similar 1-0 slates, while the IP&E Fielders hold a 1-1 card.

The Jets committed three errors at the bottom of the first and had another three in the fourth where the Starz zoomed to a 7-0 lead.

Ian Lizama walked to lead things off for the Starz, reached third on an error by Jets pitcher Mike Muna, and stole home. Ricardo Dela Cruz and E.J. Tenorio also scored for the North Starz at the bottom of the first.

Dela Cruz was safe on first after a throwing error by Jets third baseman Thomas Sablan, moved to second after Tenorio was hit by pitch, and scooted home on a Chad Atalig RBI

single.

Dela Cruz went 2-for-5 at the plate with a double and a triple and two RBIs. His RBI triple in the second scored Ton Castro and an RBI double to deep right field in the sixth had Lizama crossing home plate.

The North Starz center fielder made his second run also in the sixth inning on a sacrifice fly by shortstop Tenorio to make it 10-3.

The North Starz, despite failing to score after the sixth, held their own on defense against the Jets in the last two innings.

Castro, before being replaced by Jon Tenorio, earned the win, limiting the Jets to one run on three hits with five strikeouts and three walks. Tenorio pitched four complete innings and gave up three runs on four hits, fan-

three minutes to make a dream start.

Massimo Luongo's corner was met by Sainsbury, who took advantage of some slack marking to guide in his header.

Australia's eagerness to dominate midfield in the first half was best epitomized by Robbie Kruse, who dispossessed Abdulrahman while missing one of his boots.

Kruse created the next Australia chance when the winger's dinked cross fell close to Tim Cahill. In the ensuing scramble, Mathew Leckie's shot was blocked, but Davidson's follow-up shot slid past goalkeeper Majed Naser to double their advantage in the 14th.

Davidson became Australia's 10th different scorer of the tournament.

"We can score goals from anywhere," Postecoglou said. "We knew, if we played our style of football and got players in the positions where we can score, including set-pieces."

Ahmed Khalil, who was UAE's most impressive player in the first half, fired a warning of UAE's strength in attack when his shot from a low cross hit the outside of the post.

UAE started the second half better than the first, with Abdulrahman getting on to the ball increasingly more in threatening areas, but Australia goalkeeper Mat Ryan was rarely tested.

ning two with no walks.

Muna was tagged with the loss with six hits on one earned run, but struck out six and walked one. Terson Eina pitched two shutout innings in relief with no hits and had three strikeouts.

Davie Matagolai went 2-for-5 with one run, while Shine Tenorio batted 2-for-4 for the Jets.

Meanwhile, SBL action continued last night with the Falcons and the Fielders still playing at press time. Tomorrow, the Brewers battle the Yankees at 7pm.

In related news, SBL coordinator Tony Rogolifoi renewed his call to private companies for assistance in fixing the lights of the scoreboard at the Palacios ballfield. For more information, call Rogolifoi at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium at 234-6672.





# 2014 SEDA League Banquet

Photos By JON PEREZ



MARPAC sales manager for beverage and tobacco James Lee, right, acknowledges all the teams before receiving the plaque of appreciation from Pacific Amusement general manager Jim Gebhard during last Sunday's Saipan Electronic Darts Association League's awards banquet at Pacific Island Club's Charley's Cabaret.



Naked Fish Ridin' Darry's Blaren Castro shows off his certificate after SEDA promotes him from A to the Masters division.



The Jokers Spartans celebrate after winning both the regular season and Bud Light Cup titles in the Chichirika C division.



Naked Fish Na'Gupu members Zachariah Johnson, from left, team captain Sim Iramk, and Peter Mendiola receive the regular season Flame Tree championship.



The 10 most valuable players of the eight divisions.



Members of the Sand Juvy Predators, the regular season runners-up in the A division, pose for a photo.



Players of the regular season and Bud Light Cup champions Naked Fish Ridin' Darry pose with their trophies.



Players of the Oleai Team Fearless, the Sportsmanship awardees in the Tuesday B division, pose with their trophies after ruling the Bud Light Cup.



Sand Juvy Put3ska team captain Renato Barros, second right, joins his squad for a group photo after receiving the Thursday B Fanihi division Bud Light Cup title.



The Jokers Kitty Kats are the Bud Light Cup winners.





# 3 sweep pentathlon swim meet



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Saipan Swim Club's Taiga Sato competes in the 50m butterfly event of last Saturday's SSC Pentathlon Swim Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club's Lennosuke Suzuki and Tsunami Saipan's Nanaka Watanabe and Kyona Rivera ruled their respective divisions in the 2014-2015 SSC Pentathlon Swim Meet after sweeping their events.

Suzuki topped the boys 11 to 12 age group as he collected 45 points for gaining first place finishes in the five races he competed in last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool. Nine points were given to each first place finish, 7 to second, 6 to third, 5 to fourth, 4 to fifth, 3 to sixth, 2 to seventh, and one to eighth.

The 11-year-old Suzuki got his first 9 points from the 50m butterfly event as he bested five other swimmers after clocking in at 36.63 seconds. Suzuki's other events were the 50m backstroke (39.08 seconds), 50m breaststroke (43.03 seconds), 50m freestyle (31.72 seconds), and 200m individual medley (2:57.92).

The SSC bet defeated teammates Taiga Sato (32.5 points), Rinto Takahashi (29.5), and R.J. Pierce (21) and Tsunami Saipan's Nelson Batallones (26) and Jhota Yoshino (16) for the top honors in the boys 11 to 12 age group.

In the girls 9 to 10 and 13 to



14, Watanabe and Rivera were the winners after gaining 45 points each. Watanabe prevailed in all five events to beat SSC's Coume Kaga (34), Jinie Thompson (28), and Ayaka Sato (17) and fellow Tsunami Saipan swimmers Natsuki Nagata (26) and Ayumi Obligacion (20). Watanabe swam in the 50m butterfly (45.10 seconds), 50m backstroke (45.06), 50m breaststroke (46.65), 50m freestyle (38.62), and 200m IM (3:24.15).

In the girls 13 to 14, Rivera won her showdown against Tsunami Saipan teammate Katherine Illahi, sweeping all five events. The top finisher timed in at 1:33.29 in the 100m butterfly; 1:39.72 in the 100m backstroke; 1:39.11 in the 100m breaststroke; 1:20.08 in the 100m freestyle; and 3:13.36 in the 200m IM.

In other results, Tsunami Saipan's Ashley Dangol and Hans Xu bagged the top honors

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## Ol'Aces get last semis seat

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



The Ol'Aces caught the last bus to the semifinals of the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic after outclassing Kagman Risers, 59-57, in the final elimination round game Tuesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces finished the single round elimination with a 4-3 record to rank fourth behind Rollers 1 (6-1), Dream Team (6-1), and Sonics (5-

2). Kagman ended up in fifth place with its 3-4 record, joining Rollers 2 (3-4), Sun Palace (1-6), and Rollers 3 (0-7) to the exit door.

Tristan Montes saved the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tristan Montes, seen here driving baseline during an earlier game against Rollers 2, scored 28 points to lift the Ol'Aces to a 59-57 win over Kagman Risers in the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic last Tuesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



## North Starz ends 2-game skid

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

The North Starz pounced on an



Ballfield.

The match was originally scheduled last Monday, but the field was unplayable because of rain. Last week's rained-out games between the Yankees and the Jets, and the Falcons and



Brewers will be rescheduled on a later date.

It was the North Starz's first win in three games while the Jets, who committed seven errors, dropped to 0-2. Defending champion GSM Brewers, the Saipan Stevedore Yankees, and

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JON PEREZ

North Starz third baseman Chad Atalig waits for the relay throw, while Jets designated hitter Henry Reyes runs toward third during their game in the 2015 Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday night at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball field. Reyes was safe at third in the play.